Times.10

Your Magazine of Choice

September 1999, Vol. 7 Number 1

For Gregg Bamford
Pg 41

Identity
Pg's 15, 22, 44

Politics
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Fun
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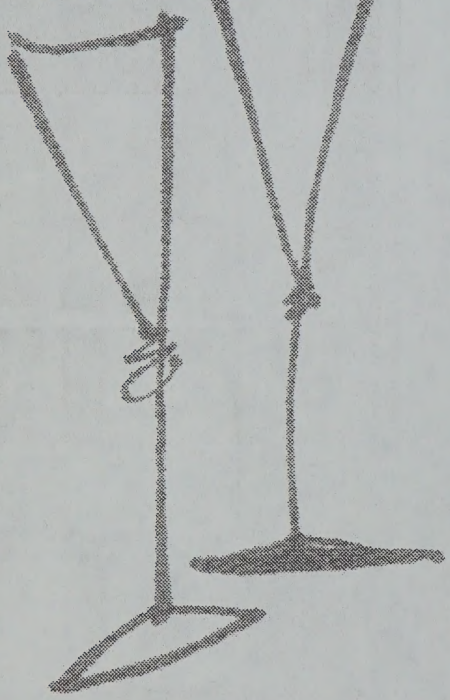
Café deVille



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Vol. 7 Number 1
September, 1999
Edmonton, Alberta

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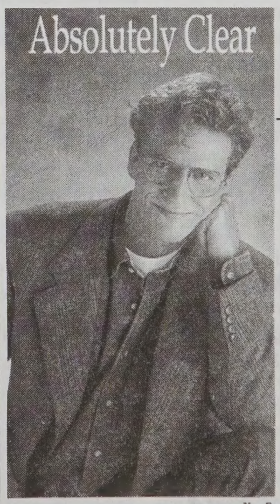

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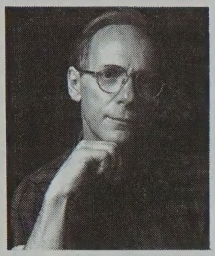
From the Editor

by Dennis Cambly



Simple Times

"...and if we did things that we all know to be right.. left would be our childish fear..." Graeme Edge

This is one of our finest hours in the Capital City. People working together to build a better community against all the sad locked up sorry states of mind. Seems that while the builders are building, there are those who choose to go it alone. One might have been able to do that years ago; however, times have changed, and so has the guard. Now, more than ever, we are a community that is really working together towards a more open and friendly environment. People are flying out of the closet so fast that it is difficult to help them find their way.

A new group has looked over this matter and formed what is called The Gay and Lesbian Information Services Network Society. It will take a few months for this project to gel and get the message out. However, we have learned that the group known as GLISN, for short, will follow these steps as its mission statement. The Gay and Lesbian Information Services Network Society is here to support the well-being of gay men and lesbians by providing essential human services to the community, by organizing and sponsoring community activities and by increasing public understanding of gay and lesbian lives. Sounds as though this is just what our community has been looking for, an upfront organization, which will not, spent its time hiding. After all, we are simply gay men and lesbians along with all our friends working towards a better understanding. There is no need to clutter up such a simple thing. The people involved in this organization have spent a good part of the summer getting together and developing both a short term and long term plan. Be watching for more information and you will want to get involved, you can e-mail glisn@hotmail.com.

As we enter our seventh year, we want you to know that we appreciate you doing your part by sending in information and/or articles to us. We need to keep people informed about our groups and services that are active in Edmonton. Secondly, and no less important, it is up to you to support the people who make this publication possible. Some of these people have been with and supported Times .10 Magazine since it first started. Strange as it may seem to some of the new readers, we completed the circle and have come home to our Magazine format. We started this entire project when we grew tired of listening to other cities put down the Capital City of this Province.

We have much to be proud of as we have managed to place ourselves in the top ten gay and lesbian publications on the Internet. It is with all your volunteer efforts that we are here for you.

Stay involved and time will serve you well as we make this journey into the next century.

Times .10 Magazine
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada
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Nintendo 64

Play Station

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22

Sept. 12-18

1977 1999

Sunday - Nellie Awards

Monday - Karaoke contest $ 150.00 cash prize

Tuesday - two hot male strippers

Wednesday - Amateur strip $150. cash prize

Thursday - Flashback café

Friday - Female & Male strippers

Saturday - Blow out birthday party

The Roost

FYI: News & Notes from the HIV/AIDS Battlefront

"Gates Adds $6 Billion to Vaccine Effort"
Wall Street Journal

A new $6 billion donation from Microsoft Chairman Bill Gates is expected to fuel a vaccine initiative to fight diseases including malaria, tuberculosis, and HIV. An article in Newsweek also reveals that the William H. Gates Foundation and the Gates Learning Foundation have been consolidated and will now be known as the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Global health experts say that Gates' foundation has reinvigorated efforts to develop and distribute vaccines targeted at childhood illnesses, malaria, and HIV. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation's major global grants include $50 million to the Malaria Vaccine Initiative, $100 million to the Children's Vaccine Program, $50 million for Motherhood Mortality Reduction, and $25 million for the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative.

"Syphilis Outbreak Traced to Internet Chat Room"
San Jose Mercury News Online

San Francisco public health officials have linked a syphilis outbreak in the city to an America Online chat room. According to the experts, the outbreak was traced to at least seven men who met through the SFM4M (San Francisco Men for Men) chat room. Dr. Jeffrey D. Klausner, director of the San Francisco Department of Public Health's sexually transmitted diseases division, is launching an online awareness and education program in the chat room and through PlanetOut, the largest online service for gays and lesbians. Statistics show that San Francisco saw a 33 percent decline in reported cases of syphilis during the first six months of this year compared to the first half of 1998. However, while health officials usually use "contact tracing" to identify and warn the sex partners of syphilis patients, the situation is difficult for patients who meet on the Internet because they generally only know each other by their screen names.

"D.C. Won't List HIV Patients By Name"
Washington Post Online

District of Columbia Mayor Anthony A. Williams announced Friday that the city will use a unique identifier system to report HIV infections rather than names. AIDS is the leading cause of death among District residents between the age of 25 and 44. There were 186 cases of AIDS per 100,000 residents in 1998. While the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention supports names reporting of HIV infection, Williams explained that he chose the unique identifier system "to assure confidentiality and not discourage anyone from seeking testing."

"Nonoxynol-9 Film Use May Enhance HIV Transmission Risk"
Reuters Health Information Services

A report in the August 20th issue of AIDS warns that nonoxynol-9 film may increase the risk of HIV transmission. Investigators observed 20 female sex workers in South Africa who used nonoxynol-9 film in a phase I, randomized, double-blinded, crossover trial. There were no statistically significant differences between the nonoxynol-9 group and the placebo recipients in terms of genital lesions, reported side effects, and viral load; but when compared to those receiving the placebo, users of the 72 mg nonoxynol-9 film displayed more clinically detected genital lesions and self-reported side-effects.

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▽ and ...and .... Or ....?

individual, couples, families, groups
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groups for gay men, groups for women

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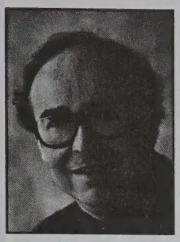

Insider News

by Michael Phair
Edmonton City Councillor

Whyte Avenue!

I know many readers of Times .10 are avid fans of Whyte Avenue—bookstores, restaurants, cafes, theatres, coffee shops the Army and Navy and bars. Over the past three months, a great deal of attention from the media has been on Whyte Avenue and I have been involved. Most of Whyte Avenue is within the boundaries of the Ward that I represent, Ward 4, and so I am going to use this opportunity to give you may perspective on why I, and the city, seem to have such an interest in the 'nightlife' of Whyte Avenue.

Most of you who are familiar with Old Strathcona would likely describe it as one of the few truly unique areas in Edmonton—it is attractive, historic and lively. Whyte Avenue is trendy, yet has few of the usual 'chain' establishments. The area is pedestrian friendly, with storefronts right up to the sidewalk, many outdoor patios or indoor spaces with large windows for 'people watching' and seems to accommodate very large crowds on the sidewalks especially on Saturdays, Sundays and in the late evenings. If you spent time at the Fringe Theatre Festival like I did, the entire Old Strathcona area was filled with tens of thousands of people, all ages, all walks of life from all over the city and generally very friendly.

Twenty years ago, Old Strathcona was a somewhat run down and seedy area, much of which was to be demolished and turned into the north-south freeway. The freeway did not go through, and instead, a group of citizens with some assistance from the city began to revitalize the district. Certainly, in many ways Old Strathcona is a success!

It perhaps is easy to forget that Old Strathcona is much more than great commercial district. It is a residential neighborhood with the second or third highest density in the city, a place with churches, schools and libraries and a business community of law offices, health and medical facilities, as well as banking and financial services. What this means is that there are many different interests and stakeholders all trying to make the Whyte Avenue area a livable and appealing area to live, work and play in.

With the significant growth of drinking establishments and additional seating in bars since 1996, problems, especially late night and early morning have proliferated—vandalism, street brawls, yelling and screaming in residential areas, vomiting and urinating on lawns and in alleys to name a few. The increase in the numbers and amount of drinking between 10 p.m. and 2 a.m. have overtaxed police and fire services and exasperated many business people and residents that do not like what they see happening in 'their' neighborhood. There is, I believe, a sense that things have gone 'too far' and that there needs to be a better 'balance' in the area. Neighborhoods should be safe places where everyone can enjoy the community with everyone else and that brawling on the streets or screaming in front yards is beyond 'enjoyment' and has no place in Old Strathcona or any other neighborhood. As readers may be aware, there have been many suggestions, including some that I have made to 'rein in' what is happening on Whyte Avenue. Closing bars earlier, adding more policing to the area, restricting the number of drinks at last call and not allowing any new bars are a few ideas that are being explored. In October City Council will look at Whyte Avenue and debate initiatives that the City might take to bring some 'balance' back to the area. Any suggestions that Times .10 readers might have would be very welcome.

I certainly am not interested in 'closing down Whyte Avenue' or keeping people out of the district, but I am concerned that the combination of alcohol consumption, number of bars and the small geographical area could be damaging and begin to undo 20 years of revitalization. It is important to address the problems that have been identified for all the stakeholders that call Strathcona 'home'. Whyte Avenue is a wonderful area that I do personally enjoy and hope it will remain vibrant, interesting and livable!

(If you have comments or questions, please contact me at 496-8146, or fax to 496-8113, or e-mail michael.phair@gov.edmonton.ab.ca)

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HIV Edmonton 488-5742
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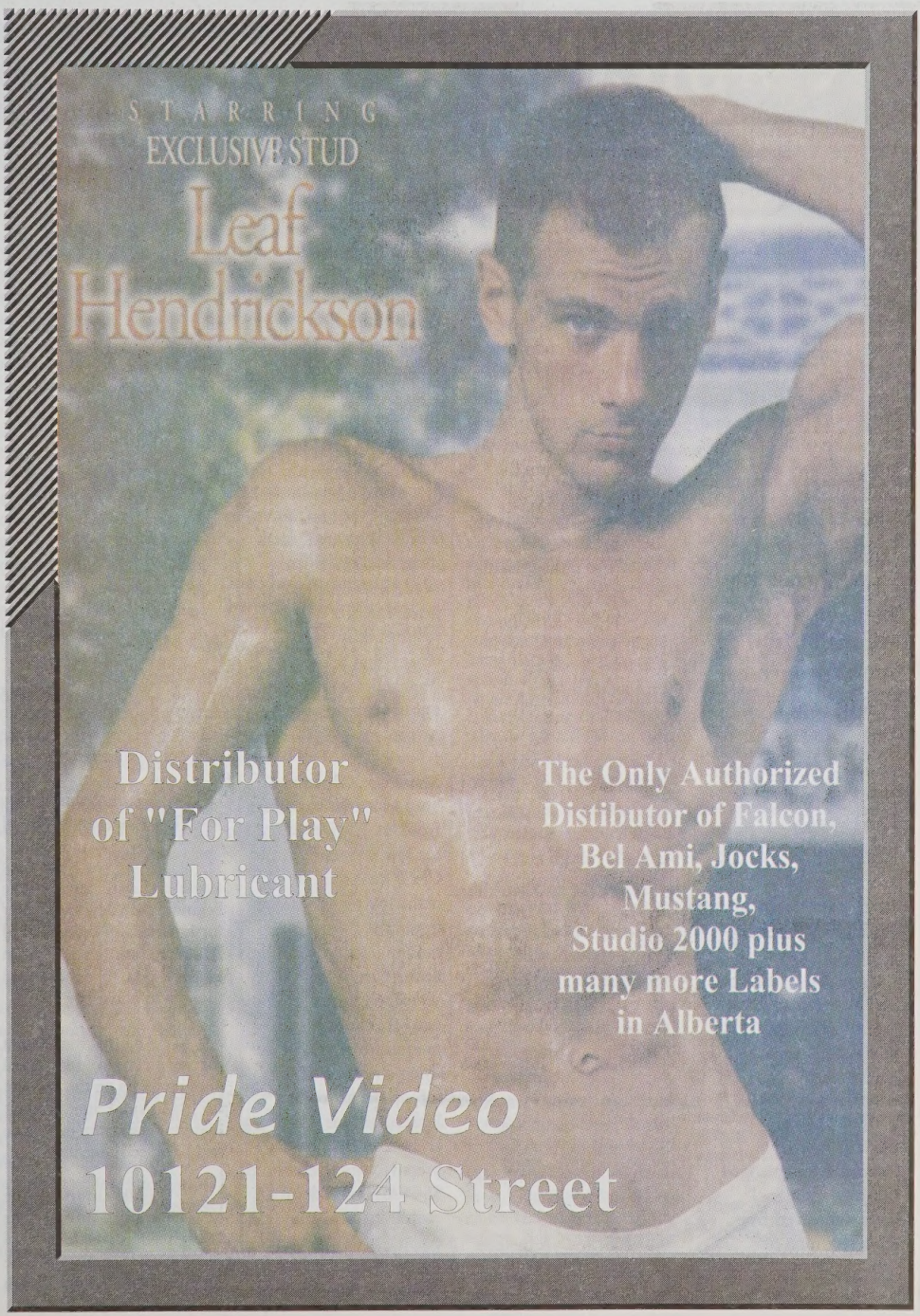
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Capital City Politics

Will Premier commit

that restored transfers will go to public health care, advanced education and social programs, not to pad size of budget surplus?

***By Laurie Blakeman -* Liberal MLA**

At the most recent Premiers' Conference in Quebec City, Premier Klein proposed the full restoration of federal cash transfers under the Canada Health and Social Transfer (CHST).

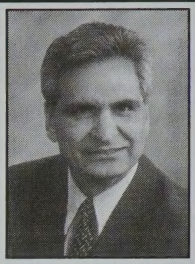
Back in July 1998, Premier Klein pledged that any additional dollars received from the restoration of federal transfer cuts would be devoted to public health care in the province and that he would be willing to sign an agreement "in blood." In February 1999, he agreed to match federal transfer restorations to health care dollar for dollar with provincial funds. Albertans now need a similar commitment from the Premier that any full restoration of federal cash transfers will go directly to public health care, advanced education and other social programs, not to pad the size of the provincial budget surplus.

Alberta's latest proposal would involve the full restoration of federal cash transfers under the Canada Health and Social Transfer (CHST), with the cash transfer based on an equal per capita allocation and escalated on the basis of the growth in the basic federal tax. Calculations prepared by the Alberta Liberals estimate that this would result in an additional **$544 million** in federal cash transfers flowing to Alberta by 2002/03.

Alberta Liberals believe that strong public education and public health care systems are integral components of a strong and competitive society. Government's first priority must be improvement of public education. Our children deserve no less than the best education system we can provide.

Health care touches the lives of every Albertan. The health care system must be there when needed, and the government's responsibility is to ensure that adequate financial resources and public supports are in place.

Therefore, Albertans need to know two things from the Premier about the full restoration of CHST transfers. First, is the Premier prepared to put the full $544 million back into public health care, post-secondary education and other social programs, or will he be using a portion of it to top-up the size of his budget surplus? And second, is the Premier prepared to match the $544 million federal cash transfer restoration dollar for dollar with a commitment of provincial funds?



The Game of Politics

By Raj Pannu - ND MLA

With the summer coming to an end, it's not so easy for me to return to the game of politics just yet.

Even politicians enjoy long, Canadian summer days!

But the end of summer also means the beginning of a new school year for hundreds of thousands of Alberta students, from kindergarten to college and through to university.

And that means that the provincial government will once again be on the hot-seat for its dismal handling of important issues in education and advanced education.

This summer, the new Learning Minister Lyle Oberg made a couple of quiet funding announcements. He lifted caps on funding English

as a Second Language and special needs programs. And, as the New Democrat Opposition has suggested all along, he announced that the government would pay to eliminate the deficits faced by school boards.

That extra money will be appreciated and it may relieve our school boards of the accumulated budgetary deficits for now. However, it also raises some serious questions. For example, why did those school boards have deficits in the first place? In all my conversations with teachers, students, administrators, parents and school board members, the answer was clear: 1) the Klein government has been underfunding education for years; 2) that the one size fits all per student funding formula does not work.

In many ways, the problems get worse after grade 12. The Tories' neglect of the needs of universities and colleges has been nothing short of disastrous. Student loans are ballooning and access to universities is shrinking; tuition is skyrocketing and the number of available programs is dwindling.

Premier Klein's vision for post-secondary education is clearly modeled after American universities; that is, high tuition fees combined with a complex and bureaucratic system of loans, bursaries and scholarships to try to address the problem of declining accessibility. This approach leads to unbearable student debt loads on the one hand and growing infrastructure deficit in our colleges and universities.

For a government that constantly crows about its fiscal achievements, its neglect of our K-12 education and post-secondary systems is shortsighted and a poor way to manage a modern economy. The provincial government is dangerously reliant on fluctuating natural resource royalties and is clearly addicted to unstable gambling revenues.

However, a skilled and well-educated workforce is an asset that never runs out and doesn't fluctuate. It is the key to prosperity and a healthy, stable economy in today's world and the Tories are foolish to ignore that fact.

With summer ending and a legislature session set to convene in the fall, political issues like education will start arising with more and more frequency. The New Democrat Opposition has been there in the past and I can assure you that we will be at the forefront again.

Immediate Tax Relief for All Albertans

By Howard Sapers, MLA

Premier Klein has recently speculated that the government will increase the level of the personal and spousal exemption as the first step in Alberta's tax cut plan, rather than removing the 8% surtax that would provide tax relief to only a select few Albertans.

While it is encouraging that the Premier finally agrees with the Official Opposition and is rewriting the government's tax cut plan to provide fair and equitable tax relief to all Albertans, it is curious that the Premier would want to create greater complication when he could simply reduce the tax burden for all Albertans by adopting our proposal to eliminate Alberta's 0.5% flat tax first.

There are some practical difficulties with implementing the Premier's new tax proposal. First, under the Tax Collection Agreement (TCA) with Ottawa, Alberta cannot adjust the amount of personal and spousal exemptions on the tax form. Therefore, Alberta would have to adjust its selective tax reduction as an interim measure in order to accommodate an increase in the personal and spousal exemption. Once Alberta moved to an 11% single rate in January 2001, it would have to eliminate the selective tax reduction and replace it with personal and spousal exemptions. This would create confusion for taxpayers when the objective of tax reform is to achieve greater simplicity within our taxation system.

Second, an increase in the personal and spousal exemption as a first and separate step in the tax plan, requires the 11% single rate to be implemented on a stand-alone basis, rather than as a single package. It is clear that the implementation of the 11% single rate on its own would result in a tax hike for many Albertans.

Alberta Liberals estimate that, while an increase in the personal and spousal exemption would result in an average tax cut of $294 per year for Albertans earning between $10,000-$70,000, the implementation of the 11% single rate on its own would result in a $229 tax increase on average for those same Albertans. When the objective of tax cuts is to create the conditions for economic growth and investment, why would the Premier want to cut taxes one year and then increase them in some following year?

The Official Opposition plan to eliminate the 0.5% flat tax first is simple, fair and provides immediate benefits to all Albertans. We estimate that elimination of the 0.5% flat tax would give Albertans earning between $10,000-$70,000 an immediate tax cut of $150 per year on average.

The Official Opposition believes that if Alberta's tax cut plan is accelerated, it must be fair, equitable, sustainable, and achievable. There should be immediate tax relief for all Albertans. That's why we would cut taxes for all Albertans by eliminating the 0.5% flat tax first. All Albertans made sacrifices to eliminate the deficit and the debt, all Albertans should now reap the benefits.

Howard Sapers, MLA
Alberta Liberal
Treasury Critic

Greater Edmonton Gay & Lesbian Community Support Groups and Services

Affirm United
(United Church of Canada) meets at McDougall United Church 10025 - 101 St. Last Saturday of the month at 7:30 - 9:30 PM. For more info, call: Larry at 429-4269 or Phyllis/Tess at 474-0862.

Alberta Pflag
Meets the last Sunday of each month at Knox-Met Church. The Church is located at the corner of 109 Street and 83 Avenue. Meeting time is 2 P.M. Contact Ellen by phone at 465-3057 or by e-mail showrish@compusmart.ab.ca.

Alcoholics Anonymous
A A is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. Call 424-5900 for times and places of Gay and Lesbian meetings.

AXIOS - Edmonton
AXIOS is an international organization of Eastern Orthodox and Eastern-Rite Catholic Gay and Lesbian Christians. Our mandate is to promote a greater understanding of human sexuality and spirituality within the Eastern Christian tradition. The AXIOS monthly newsletter is available via the Internet. Contact Dushan at 454-8449 for more information.

Badminton League
The badminton league is designed for men and women of all ages and experience. Players who are interested can participate in Calgary's Western Cup Tournament during the Easter Long Weekend. For further information, please contact Bruce at 453-1244 (email: cwbyteddy@powersurfr.com) or Dennis at 471-4409.

Bare Naked Boys Club of Edmonton - BNBCE
A naturist group of gay men in Edmonton interested in social nudity. This is not a sex club. Men of all ages welcome. Call Fred at 469-7231 for information.

The B.E.A.R.S. of Edmonton
A group for hairy men and their admirers meet the last Friday of the month 9:00 p. m. - 11:00 p.m. at Boots. Or write us at #47, 10024-82nd Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T6E 1Z3. Our email address is bears@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca

Brethren Mennonite Council
For Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual concerns. This is a support community for gay, lesbian and bisexual Mennonites and friends. Contact Tim at 434-5360 or Garrett at 423-1725 or e-mail garrett.epp@ualberta.ca.

Dignity Edmonton
This Edmonton chapter is a support community for gay and lesbian Catholics and friends. Contact Bernard at 451-1794 or Joseph at 481-4218

Classics
A social group for lesbians over 40. Meetings on the first Sunday of the month at 2 p.m.. Call Donna at 456-1008

Edmonton PFLAG/T
Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians & Gays. Edmonton PFLAG/T promotes the health and well-being of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender persons, their families and friends through support, education and advocacy. Meetings are held the 3rd Tuesday of the month at GLCCE. For information contact Lynne at 462-5958 or e-mail pflag@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca.

Edmonton Prime Timers
We are a chapter of Prime Timers Worldwide, an international social organization for mature gay and bisexual men and their younger friends over 21. Our activities include: theatre nights, video nights, pub nights. Sunday brunches, and dining out. 'We meet the second Sunday of every month (except July and August) at 3:00 PM at the Unitarian Church of Edmonton (12530 110 Ave.) for a social period, a guest speaker, and an optional supper at a restaurant. For more information, contact Peter at 426-7019, Ron by e-mail at mercury@planet.eon.net, or better yet...join us at our monthly meeting.

Edmonton Rainbow Business Association (ERBA):
Gay men and Lesbians in business and our non-gay friends; Join us ...share your business knowledge, learn more, make new friends, network ... in positive, proud space where being yourself is the norm. Call Bill Faulkner for more information 422 6207. Membership $25.00/yr.

Edmonton Vocal Minority
A mixed voice chorus joining together in a common love of music and a desire to build a greater spirit of unity and pride in the lesbigay community. If you are interested in singing with EVM or working in the areas of promotion, staging or front of house concerts and events, please contact us at P. O. Box 12091, Main Post Office, T5J 3L2 or telephone 988-4620. e-mail: evm@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca

Equal=Alberta [Edmonton]
Equal=Alberta [Edmonton] is a group of concerned citizens working to ensure gay and lesbian Albertans remain protected under Alberta's Human Rights Legislation and to ensure equal treatment for all Albertans. Call: (780) 488-3234 Fax (780) 482-2855. By Email: equalalberta@hotmail.com or visit our Website: www.freenet.edmonton.ab.ca/glcce/equal.htm

Feather of Hope Aboriginal AIDS Prevention Society
The Feather of Hope was founded on a need to provide AIDS education and support to Native People in Alberta. Through education and the development of communities in partnership, it is hoped

that the spread of AIDS will be lessened. Volunteers are very important to us. If you can help, or would simply like some more information, call 488-5773

Free-To-Be Volleyball Association

The Association aspires to provide opportunities for our community to play volleyball in a supportive atmosphere. There are 4 leagues: 1) Recreational - contact Rick at 474-6785; 2) Beach (summer) - contact Christopher at 423-4930; 3) Intermediate/Skills Development - contact Geoff at 420-6698; 4) Tournament - contact Andrew at 435-9379. Email freetobevball@hotmail.com, or see our website at www.freenet.edmonton.ab.ca/glcce/ftb.htm for details.

Gay and Lesbian Community Centre of Edmonton (G.L.C.C.E.)

The centre contributes to the well-being of Edmonton's gay, lesbian and bisexual community through informational social support services and its social information line. The services offered by the centre include an information line, telephone referrals, library, and drop-in peer support counselling. Further information is available at 488-3234. e-mail glcce@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca

Gay Men's Wednesday Coffee Evenings.

At 7:30 p.m. Breadstick Cafe at 10159 - 82 Avenue. This group fosters a safe, comfortable environment for all its participants. At the same time, it discourages attendance solely for sexual relations. Join us to relax, share experiences, and establish friendships. There is no age limit. Tel: 780-463-2098 (Graham) e-mail: gwatts@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca. Website: www.geocities.com/WestHollywood/Castro/5598

Gay Men's Outreach Crew (G.M.O.C.)

G.M.O.C. is a peer education initiative for gay/bisexual men that works toward: preventing the spread of HIV amongst men who have sex with men, advocating for healthy lifestyle choices, and addressing social and health concerns by fostering self-esteem and gay positive attitudes. For information on G.M.O.C. workshops and other activities, call our information and contact line at 944-1394 ext 4662.

Gaywire

Edmonton's only radio show about gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered lives airs on CJSR FM88.5 Thursdays between 6 and 7 pm. Featuring news, local and international features and community events.

HIV Network of Edmonton Society

AIDS Network of Edmonton works cooperatively with all those organizations in Alberta and across the country who are working to help limit the spread of HIV infection. Today the network provides Education, Info-Line, Speakers Bureau, Resource material and various Support groups. If you wish to know more about the Network, call 488-5742. e-mail: mail@hivedmonton.com.

Illusions Social Club

A social club for Crossdressers, Transsexuals and their supporters. We hold two socials each month, one on the second Thursday and one on the third Saturday. For more information, write to Illusions Social Club. Our mailing address is Box 1852, Edmonton, T5K 2P2; or phone 488-3234 (GLCCE) on Tuesday evenings to talk to someone person to person.

Imperial Sovereign Court of the Wild Rose

The mission of the Court is to raise funds for charities and other organizations which provide direct services to gay and lesbian individuals. Meetings of the Society are held at 8 PM on the last Wednesday of the month at the Garage. Our website is at: http://www.geocities.com/WestHollywood/5904

Interfaith Association on AIDS Edmonton

The purpose of this association is to sensitize local faith communities and their leaders to the unique spiritual and emotional needs of those infected by HIV/AIDS. The following faith communities are included: Anglican, Baha'i, Baptist, Beth Shalom Synagogue, Lutheran, Metropolitan Community Church, Roman Catholic, Temple Beth Ora, Ukrainian Catholic, Unitarian and United Churches. Phone 448-1768 for more information. e-mail: mail@hivedmonton.com.

Lambda Christian Community Church

We are a non-denominational evangelical Christian church. One of our primary goals is to provide a safe and affirming environment for all who desire to worship God. Lambda Community Church, 11148-84 Avenue (Garneau United Church) Edmonton, T6G 0V8. Call 474-0753. Weekly Sunday service at 7 p. m.

Liatris Society

An informal social group for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered and straight people who enjoy gardening and outdoor nature activities. For information see www.freenet.edmonton.ab.ca/glcce/liatris.htm or contact liatrissociety@hotmail.com or William at 474-7328.

Liaison Committee, The

In June of 1993, Edmonton Police Service and the Gay and Lesbian community met for a liaison to promote an atmosphere of understanding and mutual respect. For more info, call Edmonton Police Service at 423-4567 or contact the committee at 421-2277

Living Positive

Emotional, spiritual and psychological support is available through Living Positive to all those affected by HIV infection. We offer strong, loving, confidential support. We also meet weekly and share our mutual experiences. Living Positive is entirely directed by and for people who share a common diagnosis of HIV+. Peer counselling, hospital visits and a speakers bureau are also available through our society. Phone 488-5768 or e-mail: mail@hivedmonton.com.

Long Yang Club Edmonton Chapter

We are an International orginization for Gay-Asians and non-Asians. We are the Worlds largest with chapters in 28 cities and 11 countries. Come and Join US! Contact us at nivek@planet.eon.net, or call Kevin at 455-2353.

Lutherans Concerned: Edmonton

We are a spiritual community for lesbian, gay, bisexual and straight people. Lutherans

Continued on page 14

Support Groups and Services

Continued from page 13

Concerned gathers monthly for worship, sharing, and friendship. Call Mette at 461-5571, or write P.O. Box 11095, Edmonton, AB, T5J 3K4 e-mail: luthconc@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca

Metropolitan Community Church of Edmonton (M.C.C.)
We are a local church within the denomination of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches. Our major focus is to the defranchised of society. The UFMCC allows anyone to feel a part of the Christian Community and to claim our place in God's Universe. Services are open to all. We worship on Sunday evenings at 7:15 at McDougall United Church - South entrance. Please feel free to join us! Call 429-2321 for more information. E-mail: revbev@compusmart.ab.ca

M.C.C. Youth Group
Provides a safe environment for gay/les/bi/trans youth to express themselves freely, explore sexuality and to experience god`s/goddess` healing and wholeness. How we intend to achieve this goal is through social, recreational, educational and cultural activities. We are meeting on Tuesday evening at 7:00 p.m. If you have any further questions please E-mail Pam at pamjoce@telusplanet.net. Our phone number is 429-2321

Northern Chaps
Edmonton's Leather - Fetish club for Gay, Lesbian, and straight men and womyn. Northern Chaps meets at Boots & Saddle on the first and third Friday of each month at 9 PM. For information e-mail: geoffw@compusmart.ab.ca

Northern Titans
Northern Titans International Bowling League meets every Saturday at 5:00pm, September to April, at Pins & Cues Bowling & Billiards Centre, Southeast corner of Westmount Shopping Centre, 111 Ave. & 135 St. For more information, please call Garry Billett at (403) 426-6311

Outback Trailblazers
Formerly known as the River Valley Cyclists. The organization promotes recreational and outdoor pursuits within the gay, lesbian, bi-sexual, and transgendered cummunities of Edmonton and surrounding area. For more information, please call Dan at 440-6710 or Peter at 434-4712 or email at danzjeep@oanet.com.

OUTreach
OUTreach is a university-based organization for gays, lesbians and bisexuals interested in an academic atmosphere. Meetings are held every Tuesday at 5:00 p.m. on campus; main floor of the Athabasca Hall. Topics vary from week to week. Additional information is available by calling 988-4166. E-mail: outreach@gpu.srv.ualberta.ca

Team Edmonton
Team Edmonton - Gay Games Association is set up to provide an opportunity for person interested in participating in the Gay Games through fund raising. If you would like to be involved with Team Edmonton, call Johann at 437-0687.

Yours Mine Ours And Us
Parenting group(peer support) for lgbt parents, partners. Meets every second Tuesday in the Bloomsbury Room, Orlando Books, from 7 - 9 p.m. Drop ins welcome. Small contribution for room costs. Issues of parenting, coming out to kids, discipline etc. Call Liz at Massiah Counselling Services 415-5434 or Garry Billet at 426 6311. Not a therapy group.

Youth Understanding Youth
We meet every Saturday from 8 to 10 pm at the Gay and Lesbian Community Centre of Edmonton, Suite 103, 10612-124 Street. A social support group for anyone under the age of 25 years. For more information, or the give your input, phone GLCCE at 488-3234 or email: yuyedm@hotmail.com

Visions - Unitarian Church of Edmonton
Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender discussion group. We meet the 4th Wednesday of the month. Call UCE at 454-8073 or Anita at 454-1992. Not necessarily Christian.

Womonspace
The purpose of Womonspace is to foster a positive Lesbian identity among the larger community and ourselves. We hold dances, produce a newsletter and hold other activities. For information phone 482-1794 and visit our Web Page address is - http://www.gaycanada.com/womonspace/

Regional Organizations

Freedom Fort McMurray
A social Support group for Gays/Lesbian/Bisexual & Transgendered Persons and their friends. For information on upcoming events and inquirings into membership please call our Freedom line (780) 799-GAY1 (4291). To speak directly with a welcoming committee member call between 3-6pm on Tuesdays or Thursdays. You may leave a message any other time. Or mail us at "Freedom Fort McMurray c/o Money Mart Suite #1, 9713 Harding St. Fort McMurray, AB T9H 1L2.

Grande Prairie
Gay and Lesbian Community, Box 1492 Grande Prairie, AB T8V 4Z3
e-mail: pellerin@gprc.ab.ca

Northern Rainbow Youth
A support group for Highschool students. Our email address is nry13_18@hotmail.com and our web page is www.mhenley.com/ashe/nry. Any high school student can get more info by contacting their school guidance counsellor. If you want more info yourself, then you can call Crystal at (780)790-0775 at work.

High Level Gay and Lesbian Support Group
The High Level Support Group offers info on suicide prevention, monthly meetings, provincial events, gay organizations, information on a place to meet and free councilling provided by High level mental health for both gay people and parents of gay children. Our web site address is http://www.geocities.com/westhollywood/park/7702/ or write us at PO Box 3434, High Level, Alta, T0H-1Z0 or call 780-926-3989

Out North,
P.O. Box 2895,
Yellowknife, NWT
X1A 2N7.

Becoming Ourselves:

Notes On Attitude

By Shawn Mooney

Dictionary definition of "attitude": Manner, disposition, feeling, position, etc., with regard to a person or thing; tendency or orientation, esp. of the mind: a *mental attitude; group attitudes.*

In queer culture, "attitude" is a bad thing: particularly between gay men, it is a snobbish, disdainful, aloof quality.

Attitude queens are often those men we desire who fail to return our appreciative gaze.

Another definition of "attitude": Position or posture of the body appropriate to or expressive of an action, emotion, etc.: a *threatening attitude; a relaxed attitude.*

When I experience myself giving off attitude at a gay club, my whole body contracts. I become a fortress; I batten down my hatches; I feel invincible.

I especially feel tightness in my belly – I hide within abdominal walls.

Aeronautical definition of "attitude": The inclination of the three principal axes of an aircraft relative to the wind, to the ground, etc.

Walking through The Roost in attitude mode, I sense myself gliding safely above the turbulence of imagined rejections everywhere around me.

In high school, I would navigate the terror of unsupervised lunch hour hallways by staring up at the ceiling as I walked. Not having to look at any of the kids who might taunt or even slug me, I felt less scared.

I soon got a reputation in the school as a snob. A faggoty snob.

One last definition of "attitude": A pose in ballet in which the dancer stands on one leg, the other bent behind.

When I exude attitude in gay society, I am fixated on how I appear to you: as if posing for a photograph, as if the dance of my life is frozen, as if one gaze will permanently and unbecomingly fix me in your mind's eye.

Paradoxically, I bet I am less attractive to you when thus preoccupied.

I am particularly liable to contract with attitude when receiving unwanted sexual attention. An unwelcome cruise freezes me right up.

Our refusal to meet one another's eyes can be downright callous; I wish there was a better way to communicate lack of sexual interest.

There probably is.

Preoccupied by how much attitude I'm picking up from other guys at the club, I usually don't realize how contracted I am myself.

"Projection" is a psychological defense mechanism: we experience in others those qualities we refuse to acknowledge within ourselves.

You dish out attitude to me, I dish it right back out at you.

And vice versa.

So which comes first? Attitude is a "chicken or egg" argument, one of the most confounding dynamics in our community.

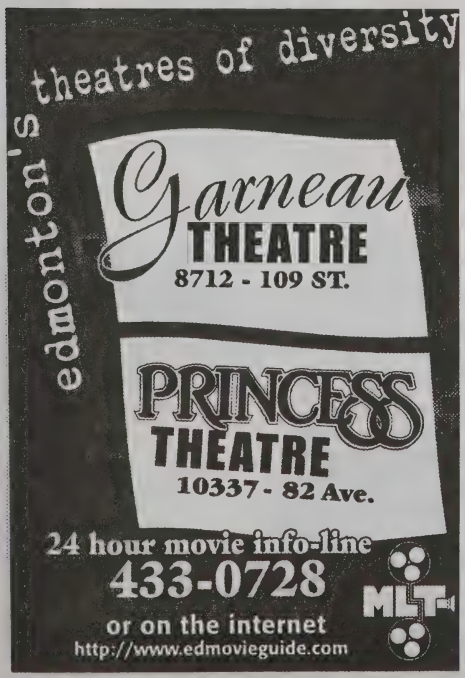
I sometimes now simply choose to stop giving off attitude when I'm out. Instead of defending myself, I make genuine contact with friendly-looking folk—whether I am sexually interested in them or not.

When I encounter an attitude queen, sometimes now I see deeper into the mirror he is for me. Sometimes I can catch his eye long enough to flash him a genuine smile.

I keep discovering that the optimal way to be in the world is by relaxing my body, breathing deeply and gliding amongst—not above—you all, receiving whatever you might send my way as a reflection of my own soul.

This attitude engenders many more opportunities to really meet you.

(Shawn Mooney is a psychotherapist in private practice in Edmonton. You can reach Shawn at 988-2741, mooney@telusplanet.net, or on the Web at www.telusplanet.net/public/mooneys.)



Monday's

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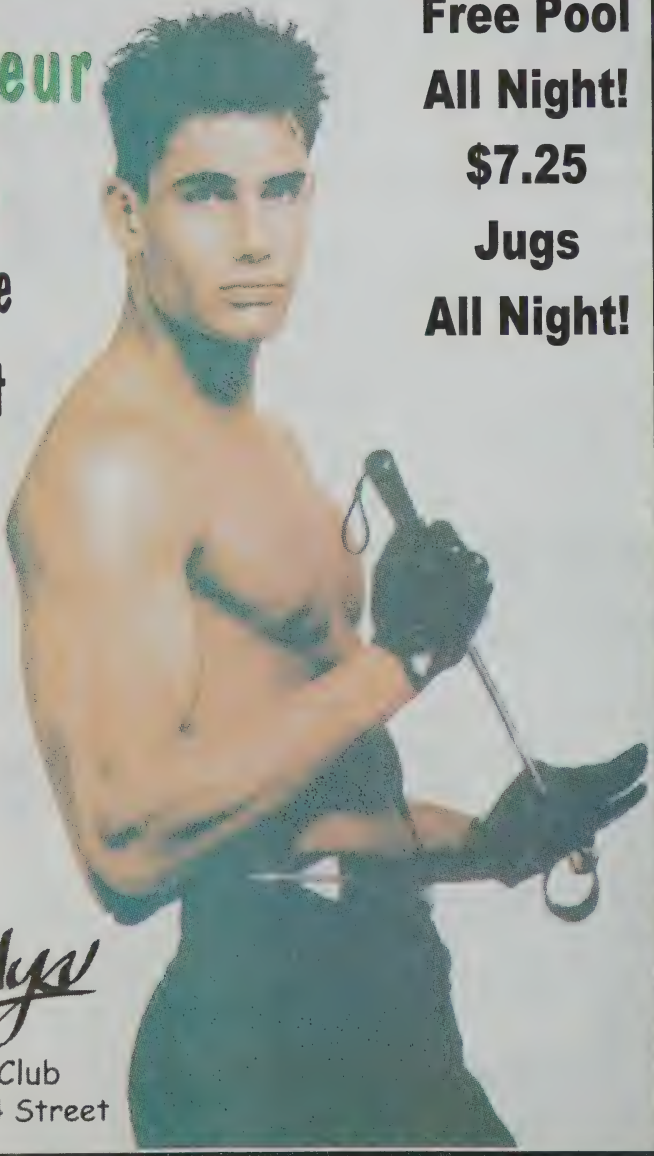

Buddys
Dance Club
10112 - 124 Street

We welcome our community to Pride 2000!

The fist meeting of the year will be held on September 19, 1999 at 1:00 p.m. at Orlando Books Reading Room, 10123-Whyte Avenue. All the community is welcome, and we encourage the youth to have their voice heard.

This will be a short meeting covering the election of officers (current co-chairs and treasurer are letting their names stand) however, all positions are open to anyone. We will also be selecting the date & theme for Pride 2000. The only other business will be to form the sponsorship committee. We will have a sign up sheet for people to express their interest in one or more of the following committees:

- Pride Program
- Parade
- Advertising/ Fundraising
- Media

We will then set a date for the next meeting, which will be more in-depth.

In order to move on with Pride 2000, we must close Pride 1999. Below you will find our final financial statement. Because of the committee, Pride 1999 was a huge success and we are able to start the millennium with a comfortable balance. We thank the community for their help in achieving this.

So make a note on your calendar to attend the meeting on September 19, 1999.

Co Chairs

Terri Hayes
& Mike McNeil

HIV EDMONTON

DYNAMICS OF HIV

HIV Edmonton is introducing a six session, 18 hour workshop
on the dynamics of HIV/AIDS
and its impact on individuals and their friends and families.

Starting on
Tuesday, October 12, 1999
from 6:00 - 9:00 pm.

There will be **NO CHARGE** for this workshop,
And Everyone is welcome!

Please call June at
HIV Edmonton 488-5742
to register

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KEN VAUGHAN (F.I.I.C.)
PROUD MEMBER OF THE GAY COMMUNITY

Safe Sane & Consensual

An introduction

By Miss Erika

This new column will cover information locally, provincial and nationally with references dedicated to "Living Leather" and BDSM. There are many different lifestyles which people adhere to. The simple pleasure of embracing leather as a desire - to living 24/7 as a slave in a Dom/submissive lifestyle. I intend to offer information, which can enhance, educate and provide safe knowledge. All information is provided by the opinion of the writer based on personal experience, knowledge of the "Masters", web sites and books. This is no way infers opinions of Times.10 and should be taken as a reference. PLAY SAFE!!

MS. CALGARY LEATHER CONTEST

One of the top features coming up is presented by "3SM" on September 10 & 11 in Calgary. The Ms Calgary Leather Contest will choose a woman to represent the Leather Community to the public and provide a venue that allows all participating leather women of Calgary to present their vision of a positive leather image. The Ms Calgary Leather weekend includes a Meet and Greet at Rooks Bar and Eatery (112-16 Ave. NW) on Friday September 10, 1999 at 10 p.m. The main event is at 8 p.m. at the Calgary Multicultural Center, 712 - 5 Street SE, on Saturday Sept. 11, 1999 and the winner will proceed to International Ms. Leather in Toronto in July 2000. The winner of Ms. Calgary Leather will receive Airfare, Hotel and Registration to IMsL 2000 in Toronto.
For information or tickets call
Rooks at 403-277-1922
Rainbow Pride 403-266-5685
B&B LEATHER: 403-265-7789
Email 3SM at lthrman@canuck.com.
Or visit the 3SM web site at:
http://plaza.v-wave.com/paladin/3sm-contents.html
Information courtesy of NLA Calgary Chapter.

Leather Pride

The **Leather Pride Flag** is a symbol for the leather community, which encompasses those who are into leather, Levi's, sado-masochism, bondage and domination, uniform, cowboys, rubber, and other fetishes. The flag was created by artist Tony DeBlase and first displayed on May 28, 1989, at the Mr. Leather contest in Chicago. Although the flag is often common in the gay community, it is not a "gay-only" symbol.

The **Bear Pride Flag** is a symbol used by some "bears," gay men marked by an abundance of hair on their face, chest, and body. Bears also tend to be older, and perhaps larger or chubby. There does not seem to be one single symbol that represents bears in general. Rather, there are many symbols that have been adopted by local clubs, bars, and other bear groups. The colors of the flag represent the earth and the various bears that live between the sky and the ground. The golden yellow paw shaped sun represents the spirit and brotherhood of bears all over the world. The blue stripe represents the sky; white for polar bears; black for black bears; brown for brown bears; and green for Earth.

Leather Daddy's Home

I live in a place where dreams are born and eagles soar, living a life that many envy but fear to fly by my side. I choose to go where most men only dream of. I believe strongly in my dreams and make them my reality, living my life fully. I don't want to miss a moment. I seek to surround myself with men who think and believe as I. Those who want to live their dreams - - to be challenged, grow and be all they can be - Physically, Psychologically, and Spiritually.

http://members.aol.com/leathrdady/private/index.htm

Edmonton "O" Society
http://very-koi.net/eos/
National Leather Association (International)
http://http://www.nla-i.com/nlai.index.html
Black Rose ***find out about BR99***
http://www.br.org/index2.html

Books from the Black Rose Site

Following is a list of books, which the curious might wish to acquire and consult.

Learning the Ropes by Race Bannon, 1992
A beginner-friendly guide to BDSM; an excellent, compact, introductory text, and ideal gift for the SM novice.

Leathersex A Guide for the Curious Outsider and the Serious Player by Joseph W. Bean. A guide to intermediate and advanced play, discussing master/slave relationships, Spiritual issues, history of SM movement. Men's scene emphasis, but applicable to anyone.

On The Safe Edge - A Manual for SM Play by Trevor Jacques. A sophisticated and comprehensive guide to beginning and advanced BDSM play better than most for its constant emphasis on issues of play safety. Covers coming out, anatomy, technical info, mind and body play, most comprehensive treatment of play safety in print, First Aid, and Scene Etiquette,

Screw the Roses, Send me the Thorns - The Romance and Sexual Sorcery of Sadomasochism by Philip Miller and Molly Devon, An excellent and lavishly illustrated introduction to SM play, as close to a coffee table book as the field has yet produced.

Sir, More Sir! By Master Jackson
A recent practical overview with a how-to emphasis. Men's Scene.

SM 101, A Realistic Introduction by Jay Wiseman
Another comprehensive how to guide, emphasizing mixed play.

The Bottoming Book
A beginner's manual emphasizing submissive role play. Pansexual emphasis.

The Leatherman's Handbook, Larry Townsend
The first of the SM play manuals. At 22 years old slightly dated but still relevant. Men's Scene only.

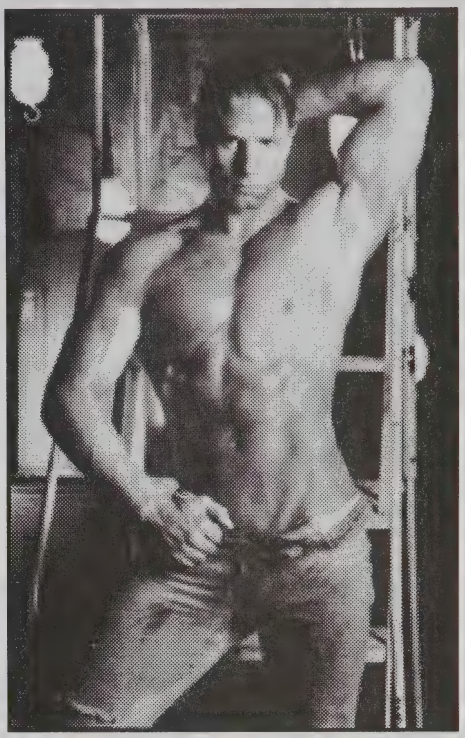
The Leatherman's Handbook II by Larry Townsend. A total rewrite of the original classic, and near exhaustive treatment of how to information about play involving men.

The Lesbian SM Safety Manual edited by Pat Califia, A play manual for women on women, including topics such vaginal and anal penetration, STDs, First Aid, etc. psychological and physical safety.

The Master's Manual A Handbook of Erotic Domination by Jack Rinella. A comprehensive study manual emphasizing the theory and practice of erotic domination, Primarily men but useful to anyone interested in developing and honing dominance skills.

The Sexually Dominant Woman A Workbook for Nervous Beginners Lady Green. A playful introduction to practical female domination of men or females.

TRUST: The Handbook, A guide to the sensual and spiritual art of handballing by Bert Herman, 1991
A technical guide to fisting. Includes technique, health and safety, concepts of tantric sexuality.



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The Flamingo Fair

The Flamingo Fair concept of a cost-effective, multi-function event (Art/Business fair by day and a dance by night) was actualized by the support of the following people, their organizations and businesses and all the volunteers who pitched in to make this event profitable and fun. This was privately funded and loss secured against by Harold Smith Travel Eaton Centre. The profit was $3300, to be divided as follows:

Pride '99 Committee - $1100
Edmonton Rainbow Business Association - $1100
"Guild"ty By Association Art Collective - $1100

The following people, organizations, and businesses were involved with the success of the 1999 Flamingo Fair Art / Business Fair and Dance

Core Committee Members

Aaron Best - ("Guild"ty By Association Art Collective)
Terri Hayes - (Pride '99 Co-Chair)
Patrick Ryley - (E.R.B.A)
Neil Chamney - (Pride '99 Committee Member, E.R.B.A. and Harold Smith Travel Eaton Centre)

Auxiliary Contributors

Luis Montalvo - (Cafe Select)
Liz Gates - (Secrets Bar and Grill)
Jim Schaffer - (Boots and Saddle)
Jim Brown - (Buddy's)
Brent Cochrane - (Sweetwater Cafe)
Gregg Bamford and Sharon - (Jazzberry's Too Cafe)
Shannon McEwan - (Volunteer Coordinator)

A sincere thanks goes out to the Pride '99 Committee for their many volunteer hours towards making the Flamingo Fair and Dance a great success. We'd like to give an extra special thanks to Mike McNeil, Gil Charest, Warren Hurt and Rhonda Lothammer.

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Heaven & Hell

John 10:1-14

By Dr. Charles Bidwell

Jesus said, "I have come that you might have life and have it in abundance." [John 10:10]

Jesus also said, "The realm of God is at hand" [Matt 10:7]. If you consider the realm of God's infinite love to be heaven, then heaven is at hand; heaven is within reach of all of us – but so is Hell. Here's how I see it.

Heaven and Hell are not what the poets and painters have imagined in the past; they are ever-present realities and we don't have to die to experience them. Our daily language shows this understanding although we may not have thought so or have expressed it that way. Listen to what we say. "I've had a hell of a day/week." "I'm in heaven when I'm in your arms!" "It was a living hell." "What a heavenly place/time."

We can and do experience heaven and hell in this life and especially in certain periods of our lives. We can hardly live a year without experiencing one or both of these states of mind. Most of us spend most of our year in a sort of limbo where everything is not heavenly or hellish, but my prayer for us all is that we experience more of heaven in our lives – to have life and have it in abundance.

I believe that we are all "going home" to our Creator and that in that state of reunion there is no punishment or reward system. Concepts of eternal punishment or reward are constructs of human desire to control.

Creator loves us infinitely and wishes the best of all possible lives for each and every one of us.

We reap the benefits and dire consequences of our thought and actions here on Earth.
We reward and punish ourselves in as much as we harm or care for others – in as much as we love the least powerful among us.

Traditional images of Heaven and Hell as geographical places above or below Earth are sources of many jokes, but I do not believe that they are locations anywhere with Limbo forming their neat separation.

When Jesus commented on the life of a person who was not helpful to others or loving, Jesus said that life was worthy of being cast into Gehenna where the fires burn eternally. Jesus was referring to the village dump where, as any of you who have been to a dump know, fires are always burning in the rubbish. Jesus was saying that that person was wasting their life – it was like garbage. Jesus was not telling us that after death we will be burning in the eternal fires of Hell – that's for readers of Dante and fundamentalist preachers who thrive on putting fear into people. Well, if the only way someone can be good and live a loving life is out of fear of hell-fire, then I pity their shriveled soul and mean spirit.
I hope all of us can find a better reason for being loving to ourselves and others – "love your neighbour as you love yourself". Some of those mean-spirited folks don't love their neighbour because they don't love themselves. Let's leave that image of Hell in the stories and find one we can believe in that is created by a loving Creator.

Heaven and Hell, I believe, are states of sensation and we experience them here and now.

I believe Creator made us that way and hopes we learn from them.
I also believe that our Creator is infinitely loving and wishes us to be striving to be as loving.

Whether we achieve anything close to unconditional loving or not, we will return to our loving Creator after this life and we will judge whether or not we learned to be more loving or not in this life.

In the meantime, I live my life as if the punishment and rewards are experienced here and now.

Do you know of others who seem to be living in such a restricted, confined, mean-spirited state of mind that you would find it some form of hell to be in that prison of fear and hatred and possessiveness?
I sense that they are possessed by, or bedeviled by, a belief that this is a dangerous world and no one is to be trusted. They have corrupted the axiom of "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you" into a credo that states "Do others before they do you." So they are in hell already. I assume that sometimes they wish they could die to get out of that state of mind, but they fear that what comes after death will be even worse.

Do you also see others living in what seems to be a heavenly state of mind? Even if they do not claim to be religious (perhaps because they aren't confined to religious doctrine and dogma) they seem to be living in a loving state and to be experiencing heaven on Earth.

Can you recall having experienced heavenly states?
I tend to live much of my life in a heavenly state of peace with my neighbours, loving others and working for justice and their freedom to become all that they were created to be. I hope you experience that too.

I believe Jesus to be the window on divinity and the mirror to humanity. I name myself as a Christian, but I don't believe what many Christians believe. I don't believe that eternal reward or eternal punishment awaits me in the after-life. I do not believe in an eternal life in Heaven or Hell or Limbo after death.
I do believe that I can experience these states of mind at any time here and now and I live my life to increase the love and reduce the unloving.
I believe that the life after death is wonderful beyond our imagining.
I also believe that I will be the one reviewing my life I am living now.
In that life review, I will be pleased with what I have accomplished or sad at how I have wasted this experience or I will be pained by sensing all the pain I caused to others.

But I act with care, respect and integrity here and now not out of fear for my eternal future, but out of a conviction that Jesus calls us to live in such a way as to experience heaven on earth and live in abundance or live and love fully.
You always have a choice over your life or else how you will respond to your life circumstances.
You can be bitter and vengeful and feel wronged over and over.
Or you can see the world as peopled with souls who are your companions.
You can look around you here and see others who are trying to be the best person they know how to be.
You can feel that you are not alone in your attempts to become better and to live with more love.
Can you believe that we are all going home to a loving Creator?
Can you believe that most people are friendly and helpful and not out to make your life miserable?
Can you believe that you can have an abundant life and experience heaven here and now?

Can you believe that that is what Jesus said you could have and that it is what Creator wants for you?

Believe it and it will be so. And I pray that it become a reality for you this week.
Amen.

The reverend Dr. Charles Bidwell is an ordained clergy with Freedom Metropolitan Community Church of Edmonton who will be leading a 9-week workshop on "Preparing for Living in the21st Century" starting in October.

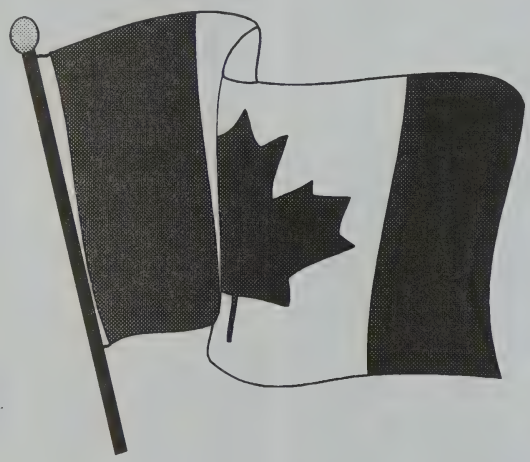
Whose Closet is it anyway?

What is a 'closet' and what are they used for?

The *Gage Canadian Dictionary* defines closet as follows:

> *n.* **1** *a small room or cupboard used for storing clothes or household supplies;* **2** *a private room for prayer;* **3** *water closet, toilet;* **4** *private or secret; unadmitted;* **5** *speculative; theoretical as opposed to actual;*
>
> *v. Shut up in a private room for a secret talk:*

A question I'd like to put forth is how did the closet become a living hell for a good percentage of the gay, lesbian and bisexual population of Canada? How did the closet come to represent a psychologically constructed, socially imposed barrier behind which many cringe in a catatonic-like state of fear? What affect does this hiding have on our families, our friends and our communities?



This article is not meant to be a treatise on human sexual behaviour or social conditioning, rather, a bit of a diatribe on the overall affect of the double life of the closeted individual. To narrow the focus a little, I want to specifically talk about the behaviours of closeted males and for the purposes of this article, the affect of the closeted married male on his family.

At HIV Edmonton, our focus is sexual health specific to HIV/AIDS. When we get concerned about the behaviour of closeted males, our concern centres around the types of behaviours that have been attributed to the emotional and psychological pressure caused by hiding one's true sexuality. Our concern centres on furtive sexual behaviours and the decisions made during these encounters.

There are many obvious reasons that an individual remains in the painful dichotomy of the closet. We live in a time and within a social expectation that makes it difficult and even dangerous for some to step up to the plate and take a swing at the ball. Society is rift with the pressures of homophobia and church imposed morality creating a backlash to the search of peace within one's true sexuality. The laws of the country are only recently being amended to recognize the homosexual as a legal entity and this hesitant move forward is reflected in a growing need to educate industry on discrimination issues. A married man who may have known since puberty that he is attracted to males, marries to escape the pressures that these circumstances create. That marriage is often doomed to disaster. A man can be forgiven for letting alcohol, drugs and even heterosexual infidelity disrupt the flow of a happy family life, but rarely is a man forgiven for a disruption caused by the need to express his homo/bisexual characteristics.

A closet affects everyone by its existence. A married male who has a family and is not considering the breakup of that family but endeavors to keep a foot in both camps, is in effect keeping his family in the closet with him. The family, unwittingly, is subjected to mood swings and depression, to lying and deceit, at times violent outbursts and assault, and more critical in its potential harm, the family becomes exposed to disease, including HIV.

A theory exists of the overt denial of the closeted individual's sexuality leading to a covert denial that person is participating in any activity that could be described as being of a homosexual nature. The closeted married male has spent most of his years not coming to grips with his true sexual needs, and by keeping the door tightly locked and firmly barred, he is making a public statement, 'I am not homo/bisexual. I am a happily married man and a loving and generous father, full stop, period.' This is overt denial, the outside of the closet door; inside is another set of circumstances.

Inside, we find our closeted married male denying that he is having any sexual inclination toward other males by (among other things) denying that he is even participating in any sexual activity. Often before and/or following an encounter, he will tell himself that he is not doing this, or

that this is purely a physical release with no desire or longing attached to it. He will often deny that he is cheating on his partner.

It is for this very reason that we at HIV Edmonton consider the closeted married male to be among the high-risk populations. These furtive encounters are sexual. Often these encounters are indiscriminate and merely a physio/psychological release with no desire to even participate in a conversation; and if there is no conversation, there is rarely negotiation. These men will perform sexually just to get it over with and out of their system for a couple of months. There is seldom a desire to please, rather a need to participate in an encounter that may or may not resemble a particular sexual fantasy.

Married men often tell themselves that they will remain safe if they have sex with other married men. They don't always make the connection between multiple sexual encounters and the risk of contracting STDs and specifically HIV; and because of the covert denial of these behaviours, there is often little thought of safer sex practices, even when they have full knowledge of the consequences. All of this produces almost insurmountable guilt and remorse. Their next encounter will be with their spouse who does not suspect that she is at risk because of her husband's 'closeted' sexual identity.

For our married man, the guilt is often assuaged by rationalizing it away, trying to convince himself that he is not a homosexual and therefore the encounters mean nothing; or by convincing himself that the need for man to man sex is not a form of cheating on his partner. The guilt builds up and he attempts to unload it on his wife by creating personality conflicts or relationship difficulties that act for him as a spoonful of sugar to the bitter pill of infidelity.

At HIV Edmonton, we attempt to bring some light to issues specific to HIV/AIDS. We are not in the business of creating solutions around the socio/psychological impact of being in the closet, nor are we interested in passing judgement on being in the closet. Our task is to make certain that the general population is aware of HIV/AIDS, and in doing so, we touch on areas of behaviour and personal development that are felt to affect decision making and, ergo, risk-taking.

Being a closeted individual is not easy on anyone, not the individual nor their families. We urge those living behind that door to take stock of what is of value to them: their happiness and their continued relationships with family and friends. By taking stock, perhaps some impact can be made on the decisions you make as they affect your health. If you are in the closet, you too need to practice safer sex. Keep you and your partners safe. If you need more information on how to play safe, call HIV Edmonton. ***by Robert Smith***

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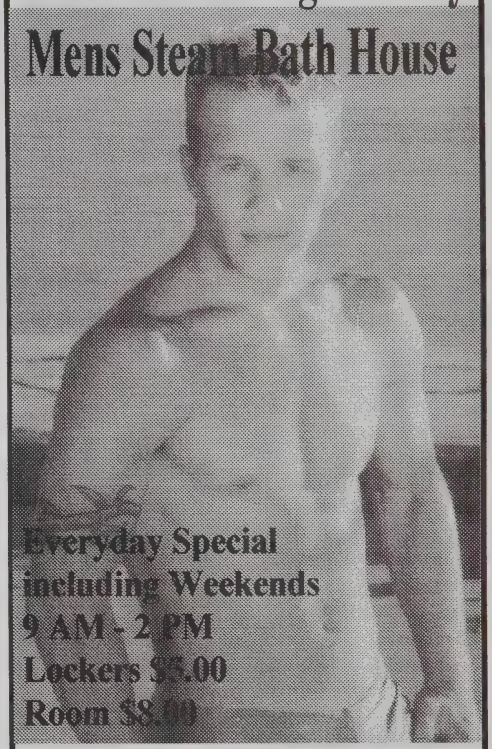

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Curling to Start in October

Last winter was the first season for the O^2 curling group in Edmonton. We had a successful first year with 10 regulars and assorted others coming out every Sunday over the 18 week season. We ran strictly on a drop in basis, making up teams each week. There was some great curling, and we saw some not so great curling (mostly due to hangovers), but everyone had a great time.

Two teams entered the Western Cup in Calgary and both made it into the prizes. This was no small feat considering the Apostles' front end was passing a flask around every draw. (I wondered why they were so happy by the eighth end, even when we were losing)

Plans are already in place for next season. We will be curling at the Granite Club again Sunday afternoons. The season will start in early October, with Learn to Curl and Intermediate clinics available through the club in late September. If there is enough interest, we may hold our own clinics. Fees are tentatively set at $110 for the season (18 weeks) or $8 per week on a drop in basis. Due to a small surplus, those who paid for the full season last year will pay only $90 for this season.

Anyone interested in learning to curl, or anyone who wants to curl in an anything/anybody goes league, this is an easy, fun group to join. Anyone can drop in any time. There is no need to enter as a team, or make a full season commitment, but because we do not curl every week, it is recommended that you give Lance a call before coming.

We are also tentatively planning a small funspiel for the weekend of November 12-14 if we can get enough interest. This would be run along with the bowling and volleyball tournaments scheduled for the same weekend.

To get more information or to register, please call Lance at 479-5308. Season fees will be due the first week we meet. Anyone interested in the funspiel should get a hold of me as soon as possible so I have some idea of interest levels.

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MINISTRY
"Dark Side Of The Spoon"
Warner Music Canada
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Scarborough, Ont. M1W-3Z4
www.darkspoon.com

It's hard to believe that in a couple of years Ministry will be celebrating their 20th anniversary. It's difficult of course, not to think back to all the wonderful music and dance floor anthems that these guys have been creating. Songs like "The Angel", "Stigmata", "Every Day Is Halloween", & the driving "Jesus Built My Hotrod", helped pave the way for many American industrial acts. While they may have strayed from their electronic roots somewhat in the past few years, having adopted a more guitar heavy sound, Ministry will remain one of the most respected industrial bands of all time.

"Dark Side Of The Spoon" is a pounding album in the tradition of classics like "The Mind Is A Terrible Thing To Taste". Tracks like the enigmatic "Supermanic Soul", "Bad Blood", & "10/10" are sure to feed a dance floor with all its agro needs. But one of the standout traits of this album is its creativity & experimentation. The bluesy-industrial-swingesque romp entitled "Step" is a prime example of such. And I don't know why, but I wasn't all that surprised to hear a sax & banjo ("Nursing Home") on this disc either! Fans of Ministry should get into "Dark Side Of The Spoon". It's a lot more like "Land Of Rape And Honey" & "Terrible Thing To Taste" than 1996's less than memorable "Filth Pig".

VELVET ACID CHRIST
"Fun With Knives"
Metropolis Records
PO Box 54307
Philadelphia PA 19105
www.edtrecords.com/vac
www.metropolis-records.com

Now admittedly, I never really got into VAC until recently when I heard " The Remix Wars Strike 4: Velvet Acid Christ vs. Funker Vogt" (Metropolis Records). I had heard much of their stuff before and always found it a more sample heavy Frontline Assembly, the music was good, dancy, but the songs seemed to be created for the sample, not the sample found for the song. Having said that, it was Funker Vogt whom got me into VAC.

When I received "Fun With Knives", I felt an eager anticipation to throw it on my CD player. Perhaps it was the inlay card, which basically proudly states "Flyers suck, Avalanche to sip from Lord Stanley's Mug" which won my heart over, or maybe it was that I had heard that the album kicked ass. I figure it was the later. Very club-floor friendly, this CD has industrial dance written all over it. Tracks like "Fun With Drugs", "Apflux" & the hidden mix of "Futile" (track 66) are sure to please any dance maniac. The samples are not as heavy on this album, save for "Fun With Drugs", which features monologues from "Fear And Loathing In Las Vegas". They are well placed, and add to the song, which in the past with other VAC albums, I felt they took away from the song.

This is a great album, fans of very electronic industrial music (ala FLA) are sure to groove on this.

P.S. Our Holy Grail does NOT belong in Texas. If a Canuck team isn't going to win it next year, go Avs go!

SWITCHBLADE SYMPHONY
"The Three Calamities"
Cleopatra Records
#251 13428 Maxella Ave
Maria Del Rey, Calif.
90292
www.thebladies.com

Now I feel in the past couple of months, gothic music & culture have gotten a bad rap. Uneducated & close-minded people of all walks of life have long shown an incredible intolerance & blind prejudice to those of whom who are within this culture. Goth is not about violence, its about beauty, romance, & peace. It troubles me when I see others complain about the way they are treated by the mainstream, and turn around & discriminate against those of whom have a lifestyle of beauty within darkness. Now that I have said that, this album by Switchblade Symphony is a perfect example of said beauty.

Opening with the track "Invisible", this album will take you on a subconscious ride through your soul until the disc tragically, ends with "Anmorata", leaving you desiring more. This has to be one of the most comforting CD's I have heard in some time. "The Three Calamities" has the feel of desolation that you can only get while driving down the hi-way late at night by your lonesome. The haunting vocals of Tina Root and the wall of sound created by Susan Wallace (Grrrr...), toy with my emotions and affirm my belief in that this is easily one of the most talented, if not the most creative dark wave duo's in the United States today. Probably the most standout track on this CD, for me, would have to be "Naked Birthday". Just as "Clown", off of their debut album "Serpentine Gallery" withstood the test of time, it is my firm belief that "Naked Birthday" will accomplish the very same. This is a song and a disc to remember. Long live Switchblade!

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My Monthly Neurosis

By Rob Browatzke

The Nightclub! What would gay life be without it? How would we survive a Saturday night without the flashing strobes, the throbbing bass, the nauseating mixture of a dozen different CK colognes mingled together in the sweat-scented air?

And yet, I find myself questioning this urban oasis. There comes a time, usually half an hour past last call, when the cocktails are empty and the latest Shania Twain remix is getting played for the ninth time. And at that point, I look around, and see the same faces I saw the night before, the same Donna Karan clothes, the same faux-smiles on the same pretty-boys.

This used to be fun, I think, this used to be IT!

We can all remember that first night, or at least, we all could if the endless happy hour between then and now hadn't blurred our brains. We felt welcomed by the sight of the sequined queens, the shirtless go-go boys, that nameless hand behind the bar that have you a glass of paradise for $3.50. And in that moment, we knew what the Cheers theme song was all about. But what happens when the drag show's over, when last call's a distant memory, and all those people that knew your name vanish into a cigarette haze?

I'll tell you what happens. The cab takes you home, you take another hit, another drink, you puke, you pass out, and when the hangover clears, you can't wait to do it all again. Because you see, these nightclubs we all hate by 2:30 are the family we can't bear to say goodbye to when happy hour rolls 'round again.

Feel free to email me your comments, your criticisms, your own neuroses at my_neurosis@hotmail.com The cattier the better - next month my neurosis could be you.

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Gay Men's OUTreach Crew **(GMOC)**

GMOC will be re-introducing our men's programming in September of 1999. This year **HIV Edmonton** will be operating in cooperation with **GLCCE** in an attempt to establish a community based programming system. **GMOC** invites any suggestions you might have regarding the type of programming you would like to see take place. **GMOC** is also inviting anyone interested in being a volunteer facilitator or a member of the outreach crew to give us a call. Alternatively, if you are interested in being a participant in one of our workshops call Robert at 488-5742 (HIV Edmonton).

Speaking Of Normal

By Liz Massiah, MSW, RSW
Registered Clinical Social Worker

(Thanks to Gordon Portman for editing expertise)

Most of these columns have dealt with issues from the perspective of the victim, the person who is feeling the impact of abuse, violence, neglect, etc. in her or his life. This time I have decided to shift the focus onto the person who does the abusing in professional terms, the abuser, the offender, or the perpetrator ... or, in the language of families and victims, "the jerk", "the bastard", "the grandfather who had a real mean streak". More specifically, the sex offender.

But why talk about sex offenders in this column at all? I want to assure you that by looking at abuse from the abuser's point of view, I'm not in any way trying to negate, or deny, or devalue the pain of those that have been hurt by abuse. Far from it. At the same time, though, it sometimes seems to me that to get a handle on what's going on, we also need to look at both sides of the coin, to be respectful of, and examine, the dark side as well as the light. The shame and silence that descends around sexual offenders often just helps keep it all going, just like other kinds of abuse depend on silence and secrets to thrive. In other words, secrets breed secrets, and the more we all know about abusers, the more chances we have to prevent them from harming us and other people. And to help them in taking responsibility for their own actions and ultimately their healing.

But there are other reasons for this column: since sex offenders eventually return to live in our communities, we need to know about the issues and the people behind the issues. Finally, sometimes articles such as these can help to confirm or dispel nagging doubts about situations that are happening or have happened in our lives. At the very least, it's all something to think about ... as I find myself doing in any number of my professional roles.

For example, as a member of the Sex Offenders Treatment Network here in Edmonton, I attend quarterly meetings to talk about issues related to those who commit sex crimes. There are police at these meetings, probation and parole officers, psychologists and social workers, clergy, all working together to create effective change in this area.

At our most recent session, Don Bossen, a psychologist who works with the Alpine Wellness Program in Grande Cache, visited and described their program and their notions about pedophilia and sexual offending. He consented to my using some of his material for this article. (Here in Edmonton, we have a highly effective treatment program for sex offenders, with a high success rate - which means low repeat offending. A t the Regional Psychiatric Centre in Saskatchewan, the data suggests that untreated offenders repeat at a rate of about 28 %, and treated offenders at a rate of 9 % - 1996, Clearwater program data)

(Perhaps some language needs to be clarified: in this context, "pedophile" refers to a person who prefers to be sexual with children. When charged and convicted, then they are called offenders. And don't forget that not all sexual offenders are pedophiles: many sexual offenders prefer adult victims.)

One key to understanding offenders is to look at what they gain from the offense and what they think they might gain: in other words, what is the fantasy. One grouping of descriptions along these lines goes like this: the Grooming Offender, the Angry Offender and the Sadistic Offender.

Of these groupings, the Grooming Offender (who seeks out victims who are prepubescent, aged 8-12) is the most common. In adults, we call grooming behavior "dating" - the process of creating a relationship that will allow sexual activity to occur. Or to look at it another way: the intent of "grooming" is to create a sense of safety, of intimacy, and of trust. Grooming offenders, therefore, are often the sort of people with whom there is already a sense of all of those things: family members, friends, the kind of person who is described as being "good with the kids". Grooming offenders take these relationships further: they find ways to ensure access to kids, developing the necessary environment for sexual activity through behaviors like engaging in cuddling, brushing the potential victim's hair, or helping with her /his bath (one man told me of bathing his victim and deliberately/accidentally dropping the soap between her legs, to get her used to being touched 'safely'. Then when he began to abuse her, he could say to her "But you let me touch you to get the soap.").

There is also in these offenders a strong need to feel important, or significant. "But we loved each other". Further: the victim is believed to consent, and this belief about consent is crucial. These folks need approval from their victims, and to get that approval they convince themselves that the victim is more fully functional than he/she really is. Statements such as "She wanted it" or "He seduced me" are common. So are statements like "She aroused me with her baby doll pajamas" or "It was important to show her the right way to have sex." or "I only had anal sex with her/him, so she/he is still a virgin." or "He did not cry, so he must have liked it.".

To treat this kind of offender, developing empathy for the victim is often effective. First of all, there needs to be an appreciation that a child can not be expected to have the same understanding of these activities as an adult, and that as adults we have the ability and the responsibility to control our impulses. Then, realizing that children are dependent on adults for safety and protection regardless of what the adult wishes, and understanding the damage that is done through sexual assault, helps the offender to change his/her behavior. Learning that victims often do not react strongly to the experience until they try to form adult relationships also helps.

The offender who prefers infants and very young children may not always be a Grooming Offender. This sort of pedophile does not need a relationship with the child, and may fall into one of the other categories: the Angry Offender or the Sadistic Offender.

The Anger based offender wants to make someone "pay the price". Their offense is essentially cathartic, feels great at the time, vents anger,

Continued on page 34

Sing It Out

By Marie Byggdin

Two years ago, I thought I might check out the lesbian, gay and bisexual chorus here in Edmonton. I had heard Edmonton Vocal Minority perform a few times and had been very impressed. I had been thinking of joining for a few years but I always missed the window of opportunity in September.

I now have been singing with the chorus for several years and can think of nothing that has added more to my life. Reading music is an asset in the group, but the membership and the leadership is eager to teach and help.

In my 20 years as a gay female in Edmonton, I have never felt so community-minded and proud to be who I am. It is impossible to describe the extreme sense of pride and inclusion I felt when we were joined by gay choral groups from all over Canada and performed at City Hall during the GALA Choruses Festival in May 1998. Heather Bishop and David Sereda directed us, as did other local conductors. As the sun streamed down, and our voices joined in a harmonic magic that could not be matched, I never felt so proud to be who I am.

The choir accepts new members before each concert semester. This year we will be accepting members on September 12, 19 and 26 and then in February. We rehearse in room123 in the Fine Arts Building at the University of Alberta on Sundays from 2-5 P.M. Contact Karen at 431-2128 or Marie at byggdin@telusplanet.net. Come join us, young or old.

Membership fees are more than reasonable. What I have received from the choir far exceeds what I have given. EVM is like a light that illuminates the path to sexual freedom. If you believe in the light, join us to help brighten its beams.

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Shawn Mooney Gay Psychotherapist

Making Waves

Edmonton's swim club for the lesbian, bisexual, and gay community and their friends, is kicking off its second season, and we want you to be there. On Sunday, September 12, we'll be holding our first practice from 7:45 p.m.—9:30 p.m. at the Bonnie Doon Leisure Centre (8205 90 Avenue). All you need is a swimsuit and an overwhelming desire to get wet.

Whether you're in it for fun, fitness, or a competitive edge, our practices every Thursday (8:30–9:30 p.m.) and Sunday (8:00—9:30 p.m.) have something for everyone. This year, our Sunday swims will include two new coaches and two lanes dedicated to recreational activities at a relaxing and enjoyable level. For those interested in stroke improvement, Kirsten Nickel will be returning to help the intermediate lane with her enthusiasm, encouragement, and enlightening swim tips. Meanwhile, our Head Coach, Trevor Nickel, will put our more competitive swimmers through their paces with a rigorous and comprehensive swim program. After each swim, we all meet up at the Second Cup on Whyte Avenue (one of our sponsors) to cool down with some hot drinks and lively conversation.

But our team spirit doesn't stop there. As part of our commitment to fun and fitness, we'll be throwing parties and fundraising events throughout the season. We even have men's and women's swim suits, caps, and T-shirts with our team logo on them, so you can make a splash both in and out of the pool.

Everyone's first swim is free. There, you'll get an information and registration packet that will fill you in on all the details. For more information, please contact Paul Cachia at 433-7212 or e-mail him at paul.cachia@ualberta.ca. Come on out and see why Making Waves is one team that lives up to its name.

Breaking Away

Hi everyone. If your looking for a getaway filled with adventure and intrigue, you will certainly find it in Peru. Peru combines many world renowned sites, such as Machu Pichu, The Nazca Lines, Lake Titicaca, The Amazon River, and the Andes Mountains.

Machu Pichu is the lost city of the Incas. At an elevation of nearly 8000ft, it is a truly amazing structure, composed of various houses, palaces and temples. The entire city overlooks the Urubamba River located a mere 2000ft below. The majority of the compound is composed of sloping terraces, with one side majestically rising over the entire site, which is the mountain peak known as Huaynu Picchu. Machu Pichu can be reached either by taking the train from Cuzco, or by foot, traveling along the Inca Trail.

North of the capital city of Lima lie the infamous Nazca Lines. Composed of outlines of people, animals, birds and fish, the looming designs stretch out for miles and remain largely symmetrical. The lines are a breathtaking sight, as well as mysterious, for to this day it is not known how the lines originated.

While the 12hr train ride from Cuzco to Lake Titicaca may seem lengthy, it is rewarding. The lake is the highest navigable lake in the world and is known for its deep blue, still water. Activities at the lake include a boat ride to a reed island to visit the Uros Indians. One should also pay a visit to the lakeside town of Puno where you can experience colorful native fiestas and dances.

Lake Titicaca is not the only scenic body of water in Peru. The Amazon River can be viewed from the Northern city of Iquitos. Trips out of this city include escorted tours of the jungle, complete with a stay at a jungle lodge. For those who wish to experience the true beauty of the Amazon, there are also river cruises available.

The geographical sites of Peru also include a large portion of the Andes Mountains, which accounts for the high altitudes of many of the attractions in Peru. The mountains reach over 11,000ft in Cuzco and soar to over 20,000ft in other areas. Perhaps the most appealing feature of the Andes is the well known hospitality of the local natives, who are known to be exceptionally friendly and outgoing to travelers.

If you wish to travel to Peru, you should be aware of the high altitudes you will encounter. It is advised that you relax for the first couple of days of your journey in order to adjust to the altitude. It is also recommended that you visit Peru on an escorted tour due to the lack of hotel space available. Tours for gay and lesbian clientele into Peru are available.

Peru is a country which can offer a lot to any traveler looking to experience both culture and adventure. If you are able to visit just half of the attractions we have listed, you will find the journey to be a rewarding one.

If you have any questions regarding this or any other destination, please contact Jacy at Harold Smith Travel in Eaton Centre, 488-4712.

Travel Trivia - Besides being the worlds highest navigable lake, what is Lake Titicaca's other claim to fame?

Answer - It contains some of the largest trout in the world.

Jacy Dobrich and Roberta Gablemann

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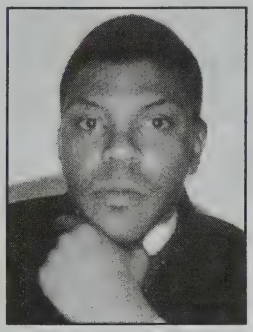
Millenium

A Magical, Mystical, Mythological Evening Saturday, August 28, 1999 Prince of Whales Armories

Once again, The Imperial Sovereign Court of the Wild Rose will host its 24th annual charity ball and befittingly the Prince of Wales Armories at 10440-108 Ave will be this year's "Drag" central as Edmonton's Queens gather not only to crown the new Empress and Emperor, but also to raise funds for their various charities in an evening filled with fun and excitement.

The Ball - like the Oscar's, is a grand affair of extravagance and entertainment. Drag Queens dressed up in their finest gowns glimmering with rhinestones and sequins conduct their grand entrances. Many of the past monarchs and current reigning Emperors and Empresses from Edmonton and across Canada give command performances to their peers and an audience filled with well-known personalities. Awards are presented to outstanding individuals who were recognized for past achievements and finally the best candidates for Emperor and Empress are chosen and crowned. However, unlike the Oscar's, political correctness is thrown out the window and a wild time is had by all.

This year's candidates for Empress are Brandi Bodeen and Dyna Thirst. Brandi, a local Edmontonian, has been involved with the court for the past 16, years both in Edmonton and in Vancouver. As Imperial Princess for the Thirteenth House and Empress One and a half of Saskatoon, Brandi has performed in many shows in Edmonton, Vancouver, Calgary and Red Deer.



Her rival, Dyna Thirst, born in a small town in Alberta and involved with the Court for four years as Imperial Crown Prince for the Twenty-first House, has also performed in a variety of shows in Edmonton and across the country including Vancouver, Calgary, Hamilton, Toronto, Winnipeg, Red Deer and recently at the Pride kick-off at Edmonton's City Hall.

The only candidate for Emperor this year is Garry. Involved with the Court for the past two years, Garry is known for his performances as one of the personas of Edmonton's rendition of the Village People.

The I.S.C.W.R., one of Edmonton's first gay organizations, was incorporated in 1975. The Court's mission is to raise funds for charities and other organizations which provide direct service to the gay community of Edmonton and the Ball is their largest and grandest event of the year held over the course of several days. The fun begins on Wednesday, August 25th at The Roost where the State Barbie-Q will be held. The in-town show is at Buddies on Thursday, and the out-of-town show is at the Roost on Friday. The Ball, of course, is on Saturday, and to finish the week's events the Victory Brunch and Tough Drag will be held on Sunday at Secrets.

Finishing with a few Awards & a Pool Party

Pride 1999

Pride 2000 Meeting, 1 PM, Sunday Sept 19th

at Orlando Books Reading Room on Whyte. be There.

Speaking of "Normal"

Continued from page 27

hatred, pain – in short, it's a moment of power to compensate for feelings and experiences of powerlessness. It's about aggression expressed sexually, not about sex expressed aggressively. There is violence, but usually only enough to obtain submission: when the victim feels powerless, the abuser is aroused and the victim is dehumanized, which is the point. The victim has paid the price for the offenders pain.

When caught, the offender often makes statements about "I will never do that again" - well intentioned, but often a false resolve and difficult to maintain. In treatment, therefore, because the offender's anger shuts down feelings of empathy, one of the first and most important steps is for the victim to be humanized to the abuser.

The least common, but the one that gets the most public attention is the Sadistic Offender. These offenders do not care about the victim, just about their own arousal. The offender is almost 'allergic to intimacy', plans actions in a cold and calculating way. The agony of the victim is the fuel for the arousal.

In treatment, empathy cannot be a goal: it just enforces the arousal. Learning how to control behaviors, to seek support to avoid re-offending is more useful. Much like coaching the alcoholic to phone her/his AA sponsor from outside the bar, these offenders need to discover and monitor their own patterns of offending behavior and what to do to change the particulars of the situation. For example, noticing an increase of victims in their fantasies may be a signal to seek support.

Most offenders have been horribly abused as kids themselves, abuse masked in silence. Often offenders struggle with the same issues as the victims.. flashbacks, feelings of powerlessness, intrusive thoughts, sleep problems, depression, anxiety, struggles with intimacy, abandonment, attachment problems, etc. The ultimate goal in working with sexual offenders, then, is not only stopping the abusive behaviors, but eventually turning to other issues that need healing work, a step in treatment common to work with most, if not all, categories of sexual offenders.

This column is different from many of the others I have written. Hopefully it has provided some interesting information. It may have been challenging reading, so take care of yourself if that is true for you.

On a very different note.... don't forget the request for Standing Up For Pride ... the list is growing...tell us what you do to stand up for your own pride and we will add it to the list. Send them to me at ahanemas@datanet.ab.ca or to Dennis here at Times. 10.

All opinions expressed are those of the author and are not meant to replace consultation with a registered, accountable professional therapist.

Watch for It

October 16th 1999

Many Particpating
Venues
Acts
Entertainment

No Name Fundrasier Part V

For People Living with HIV and AIDS for the Holdiay Season
Brought to You by Times .10 Publications Society in co-operation with Living Positive and Metropolitan Community Church

HIV/ AIDS Walk Edmonton 1999

On September 26th, approximately 2000 Walkers and 200 volunteers will come together at the Kinsmen Sports Centre to participate in the HIV/AIDS Walk 1999. While participants will socialize, enjoy free food, coffee, entertainment and walk the 7 kilometer route, Edmonton's four AIDS Service Organizations will reap extraordinary benefits for individuals infected with HIV and AIDS.

HIV Edmonton, Feather of Hope Aboriginal AIDS Prevention Society, Interfaith Association on AIDS, Living Positive and Edmonton Persons Living with HIV Society each offer distinct but complimentary services to the citizens of Edmonton and surrounding area dealing with all aspects of HIV and AIDS.

This years expected increase in participation reflects the growing recognition that AIDS leaves no community untouched. The funds raised by this annual Walk will go directly towards increased and better programs and services where they are most needed.

We need your help! We are asking the gay, lesbian & transgendered community of Edmonton as well as your friends and families to Walk with us on September 26th.

Infection rates in Alberta continue to grow, and as people with HIV/AIDS are living longer and treatment options become more complex, the demand on community-based services increases. In this time of increased demand for services and competition for funds, our HIV/AIDS Walk will be a successful example of communities rallying together to confront this significant health problem.

HIV touches all of us. We need to come together as a community to fight it and prevent it.

If you can... give the gift of your time and energy to WALK with us on September 26th. Phone today and ask us to mail out your pledge kit, or come and pick one up at #600, 10242-105 St. Ask friends and family to pledge your steps. Every pledge counts.

Phone 488-5742 to register today. Every walker will receive gifts generously donated by our sponsors. Enter a team! This year the top five teams will win fabulous prizes with the top team members each winning a colour television set. Carry your organization's banner or sign. Wear your team T-shirts or caps.

Whether you enter as an individual or with a team, your gift is priceless. Let's leave this millenium with a record breaking HIV/AIDS WALK. YOUR SUPPORT IS NEEDED EVERY STEP OF THE WAY! See you on the 26th.

Vikki Menze
Walk Coordinator

Beyond Aids: Gay Men's Summit Addresses STDs

The Gay Men's Health Summit drew 300 health workers, activists and researchers to Boulder, CO, during the last weekend in July to broaden the scope of health concerns facing gay men to beyond AIDS, the Washington Blade reports. Among the issues receiving attention included STDs, such as gonorrhea and hepatitis, and sexual abuse. According to Steve Wakefield, a member of the AIDS Research Advisory Council at the National Institutes of Health, "We have been so crisis-oriented around HIV that we haven't thought about other issues that affect our community." He added that "many doctors are uninformed about gay men's specific needs, and many gay men are reluctant to discuss their sex lives openly with their doctors." Nonetheless, the HIV epidemic has fueled a "paradigm shift in how gay men approach health care," he said, adding, "Now gay men are used to being informed." Over the course of the summit, attendees discussed ways to increase coverage of gay men's health issues, including the creation of a publication to address gay men's health issues and an online research and information clearinghouse. Summit speaker Eric Rofes said, "We're partially drawing on our previous work in gay men's health from before the epidemic. ... And we're drawing on our own AIDS work and the way we organized at some of the early AIDS conferences." A manifesto drafted by a group of under-35 conferees called for the creation of "sex-positive wellness clinics" to serve the health care needs of young gay men. Rofes concluded: "the summit organizers believe that HIV/AIDS remains a central part of our agenda and our program. While we believe major shifts are occurring in the ways gay men experience and make sense of HIV, we do not believe the medical condition called AIDS has been cured or that continued activism in this area is not needed"

(Hoffman, Washington Blade, 8/6 issue)

You and Your Funny Bone..:)

Bubba

Bubba was bragging to his boss one day, "You know, I know everyone there is to know. Just name someone, anyone, and I know them. "Tired of his boasting, his boss called his bluff, "OK, Bubba how about Tom Cruise?" "Sure, yes, Tom and I are old friends, and I can prove it. "So Bubba and his boss fly out to Hollywood and knock on Tom Cruise's door, and sure enough, Tom Cruise, shouts, "Bubba! Great to see you! You and your friend come right in and join me for lunch! "Although impressed, Bubba's boss is still skeptical. After they leave Cruise's house, he tells Bubba that he thinks Bubba's knowing Cruise was just lucky. "No, no, just name anyone else," Bubba says. "President Clinton," his boss quickly retorts. "Yes," Bubba says, "I know him, let's fly out to Washington."

And off they go. At the White House, Clinton spots Bubba on the tour and motions him and his boss over, saying, "Bubba, what a surprise, I was just on my way to a meeting, but you and your friend come on in and let's have a cup of coffee first and catch up." Well, the boss is very shaken by now, but still not totally convinced. After they leave the
White house grounds, he expresses his doubts to Bubba, who again implores him to name anyone else. "The Pope," his boss replies. "Sure!" says Bubba.

"My folks are from Poland, and I've known the Pope along time." So off they fly to Rome. Bubba and his boss are assembled with the masses in Vatican Square when Bubba says, "This will never work. I can't catch the Pope's eye among all these people. Tell you what, I know all the guards so let me just go upstairs and I'll come out on the balcony with the Pope." And he disappears into the crowd headed toward the Vatican. Sure enough, half an hour later Bubba emerges with the Pope on the balcony. But by the time Bubba returns, he finds that his boss has had a heart attack and is surrounded by paramedics. Working his way to his boss' side, Bubba asks him, "What happened?" His boss looks up and says, I was doing fine until you and the Pope came out on the balcony and the man next to me said, "Who's that on the balcony with Bubba?"

A Blonde and The Alligator Shoes

A young blonde was on vacation in the depths of Louisiana. He wanted a pair of genuine alligator shoes in the worst way, but was very reluctant to pay the high prices the local vendors were asking. After becoming very frustrated with the "no haggle" attitude of one of the shopkeepers, the blonde shouted, "Maybe I'll just go out and catch my own alligator so I can get a pair of shoes at a reasonable price!"

The shopkeeper said, "By all means, be my guest. Maybe you'll luck out and catch yourself a big one!"

Determined, the blonde turned and headed for the swamps, set on catching himself an alligator.

Later in the day, the shopkeeper is driving home when he spots the young man standing waist deep in the water, shotgun in hand. Just then, he sees a huge 9-foot alligator swimming quickly toward him. He takes aim, kills the creature and with a great deal of effort hauls it on to the swamp bank. Laying nearby were several more of the dead creatures.

The shopkeeper watches in amazement. Just then the blonde flips the alligator on it's back, and frustrated, shouts out, "Damn it, this one isn't wearing any shoes either!"

A Dog at the Movie

A man follows a woman out of a movie theatre. She has a dog on a leash. He stops her and says, "I'm sorry to bother you, but I couldn't help but notice that your dog was really into the movie. He cried at the right spots, he moved nervously in his seat at the boring parts, but most of all, he laughed like crazy at the funny parts. Did you find that unusual?"

"Yes," she replied, "I found it very unusual... because he hated the book!"

Circle Flies

It's the middle of summer and a Highway Patrolman pulls over a motorist for speeding. While he's writing the ticket, flies keep buzzing around his head, annoying him considerably. "Circle flies sure are bad this year, aren't they?" says the motorist. "Yeah," says the patrolman, "if that's what these are, you're sure right. But I've never heard of a circle fly before. What's that?" "Well," the motorist responds, "circle flies are a species of fly that are particularly partial to horses. Specifically, they tend to circle around a horse's rear end. That's why they call 'em circle flies."

The patrolman, catching the implication, replies, "You don't say. Well, that's very interesting. But it strikes me that you might be trying to call me a horse's ass. You wouldn't be making that kind of implication about an officer of the law, would you?" "Oh, no sir!" responds the motorist. "No, sir, not at all. I have the utmost respect for law enforcement officers, and would never dream of implying that one of them was a horse's ass. No, sir, I'm terribly sorry
if that's how it sounded." "Yeah, I didn't think so," replied the patrolman. "Yeah," the motorist continued, "but there's just no fooling those circle flies, is there?"

Cooling Off

The weather was very hot and this man wanted desperately to take a dive in a nearby lake. He didn't bring his swimming outfit, but who cared? He was all alone. So he undressed and got into the water.

After some delightful minutes of cool swimming, a pair of old ladies walked onto the shore in his direction. He panicked, got out of the water and grabbed a bucket lying in the sand nearby. He held the bucket in front of his private area and sighed with relief.

The ladies got nearby and looked at him. He felt awkward and he wanted to move. Then one of the ladies said: 'You know, I have a special gift, I can read minds.' 'Impossible', said the embarrassed man, 'You really know what I think?' Yes', the replied, 'Right now, I bet you think that the bucket you're holding has a bottom.'

A bit of This...

"In college I experimented with heterosexuality. I slept with a straight guy. I was really drunk."

— Bob Smith, comic

"In the personals when you see 'Straight-acting male seeks same' they might as well say 'Gay man in denial seeks other gay men in denial for fun and laughs.'"

— Michael Rasky, comic

Terrible Cold

When Pat and Mike met each other on the street one day, Pat noticed that Mike had a terrible cold. "Have you seen a doctor about that cold?" he asked. "No," said Mike, "But I probably should. Do you know a good doctor?" Pat gave him the name of his own doctor and assured him that he'd be in good hands. About a week later, they met again and Pat wasn't sure if the cold was really better. "Did you see my doctor?" Pat inquired. "Oh, yeah," Mike replied. He was a really nice guy!" "Well, did he give you something to help your cold"?

"Sure did!" Mike answered, somewhat enthusiastically. "He told me to drink a big glass of fresh orange juice after a hot bath." "Well, did it help?" Pat asked hesitantly. "How do I know?" Mike retorted. "I haven't even finished drinking the bath yet!"

Do You Remember?

Grandma and Grandpa were sitting in their porch rockers watching the beautiful sunset and reminiscing about "the good old days," when Grandma turned to Grandpa and said, "Honey, do you remember when we first started dating and you used to just casually reach over and take my hand?" Grandpa looked over at her, smiled and obligingly took her aged hand in his.

With a wry little smile, Grandma pressed a little farther, "Honey, do you remember how after we were engaged, you'd sometimes lean over and suddenly kiss me on the cheek?" Grandpa leaned slowly toward Grandma and gave her a lingering kiss on her wrinkled cheek.

Growing bolder still, Grandma said, "Honey, do you remember how, after we were first married, you'd kind of nibble on my ear?" Grandpa slowly got up from his rocker and headed into the house. Alarmed, Grandma said, "Honey, where are you going?"

Grandpa replied, "To get my teeth!"

The Harley Trick

There's this guy who's in the market for a used motorcycle. Always wanted a nice big hog. So he's shopping around, answering ads in the newspaper, and not having much luck. One day he comes across a beautiful classic Harley with a "for sale" sign on it. Upon inspection, he is amazed to find the bike in mint condition. He inquires about it with the owner: "This bike is beautiful! I'll take it. But you gotta tell me how you keep it in such good shape.

"Well," says the seller, "it's pretty simple. Just make sure that if the bike is outside, and it's going to rain, rub Vaseline on the chrome. It protects it from the rain. In fact, since you're buying the bike I won't need my tube of Vaseline anymore. Here, you can have it" and he hands the buyer a tube of Vaseline.

So the guy buys the bike and off he goes, a happy biker. He takes the bike over to show his girlfriend. She's ecstatic (being a Harley fan).

That night, he decides to ride the bike over to his girlfriend's parents' house. It's the first time he's going to meet them and figures it will make a big impression. When the couple gets to the house, the girlfriend grabs her boyfriend's arm. "Honey," she says, "I gotta tell you something about my parents before we go in. When we eat dinner, we don't talk. In fact, the person who says anything during dinner has to do the dishes." "No problem," he says. And in they go.

The boyfriend is astounded. Right smack in the middle of the living room is a huge stack of dirty dishes. In the family room, another huge stack of dishes. Piled up the stairs, dirty dishes. In fact, everywhere he looks, dirty dishes. They sit down to dinner and, sure enough, no one says a word.

As dinner progresses, the boyfriend decides to take advantage of the situation. So he leans over and kisses his girlfriend. No one says a word. So he decides to reach over and fondle her breasts. He looks at her parents, but still they keep quiet. So he stands up, grabs his girlfriend, strips her naked, and they make love right on the dinner table. Still, no one says a word.

"Her Mom's kinda cute", he thinks. He grabs his girlfriend's Mom and has his way with her right there on the dinner table. Again, total silence.

Then, a few raindrops hit the window and the boyfriend realizes it's starting to rain. He figures he'd better take care of the motorcycle, so he pulls the Vaseline from his pocket. Suddenly the father stands up and shouts: "All right, all right! I'll do the damn dishes!!!!!"

On the Fringe of Being GAY

By: Bob Mills

I sat at our local Fringe theatre festival with my partner on Saturday. We were pleasantly relaxing, sipping on a beer in the hot sun, looking out at all the "eye candy". Mostly, though, we were enjoying the scantily clad men of all ages, many shirtless.

We had a thought provoking discussion of no longer being able to recognize the gay symbols we once used as a barometer on who is gay and who is not. You know signs and signals of someone else being gay. Seeing the obvious symbols, strangers would nod and smile. That was how we gay men communicated casually with others who were gay. It was a 60's, 70's, 80's thing. There use to be the very obvious earring in the (left) ear, perhaps the open button on the 501's (he is looking), and even the hanky code - and I never really understood them except then in San Francisco - you have to there.

Gay men were the trendsetters, so picking gay men out in a crowd was a matter of paying attention to the symbols. You know the skin head look and the streaked or dyed hair, perms and military buzz cuts. There were baseball caps that fit the head, pony tails outside the caps, muscle shirts, chain wallets, ripped jeans, baskets assisted by the use of cock rings, sleeves rolled up on white T-shirts, very snug muscle shirts, plaid flannel anything, designer belts with glitter and piercings for all to view.

Today, straight men pierce whatever, dye their hair (hair color products for young men are advertised on the sides of buses) and shave their legs, chests, and arms. I guess we should have taken a trademark.

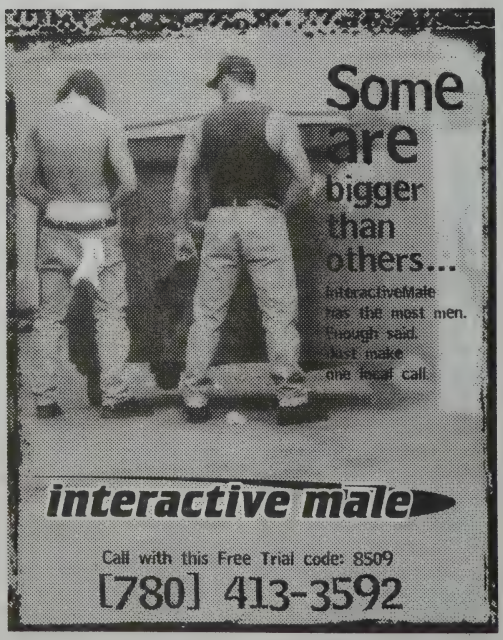
Today, we sat near to a group of brazen young men talking about and showing off their pierced nipples and the majority had both done. One even mentioned his hatred of the idea and offered to personally twist off any one's ring that got too close to him.

One man was talking about his pierced "member". My ears pricked up only to hear him finish with, my girlfriend almost refused me when I first met her. A couple of the men had very nicely dyed and frosted tips on their hair, and almost all of them had one ear if not two ears pierced.

In catching a few back ends each time one went to let out more beer, we noticed shorts with studded belts, black work boots with white socks, and even a red hanky tip in one of the nicest butts I have seen in a long time. And a yellow hanky worn by typical Alberta Red Neck.

One of the loudest young men (perhaps a closet case) calling out to his friends when they were no where near to returning to the table, actually wore a Hawaiian Tom Sellick shirt. I would say these guys were in their early 20's. I thought, if they were in Wyoming, they might all be dead by now.

The Edmonton Fringe, the largest in the world, is a 10 day theatre, fine arts and entertainment event, all live and with many performances right on the street and parks near by. It happens to draw a bit more of an unusual crowd, not the "norm". Many of the performers and participants are either gay or certainly pay little attention to who is and who is not. But when the messages and signals are mixed, well, we gay men who grew up in the 60's and 70's, might just try to pick up the wrong person and then watch out! I would hate to think what New York Villagers, or Castro Street boys would think - I thought almost every male looked gay - or gave off that signal to my Gay-Dar. How about these definitions borrowed from HBO's "Sex In the City":



Perhaps these can help us grasp on to the 90's before they end.

GAY STRAIGHT MAN - A man who is sexually attracted to and sleeps with women, but as a result of living in NYC and an overexposure to fashion, gourmet markets, and the like, exhibits the outward qualities
of a gay man.

STRAIGHT GAY MAN - A man who is sexually attracted to a sleeps with men, but enjoys watching and participating in activities such as basketball, hockey and football.

From what I can tell, much of "street fashion" comes from the gay and black communities, eventually being appropriated by straight white guys.

Whatever happened to "Straight acting" Straight looking"? But we are in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, the "Montreal" of the west when Fringe comes to town.

D.J.M.'s Domestic Top 20

D.J.Mikee spins Top 40/ Techno/ Alternative and Club music on Fridays and Classics on Thursdays at the Roost.

Domestic Top 20 compiled by D.J.Mikee

1."CANNED HEAT" - JAMIROQUAI (SONY)
2."LET FOREVER BE" - CHEMICAL BROTHERS (EMI)
3."STRANGE DISEASE - PROZZAK (SONY)
4."BEAUTIFUL STRANGER" - MADONNA (WEA)
5."LIVIN LA VIDA LOCA" - RICKY MARTIN (SONY)
6."GENIE IN A BOTTLE" - CHRISTINA AGUILERA (BMG)
7."ALL STAR" - SMASH MOUTH (UNI)
8."LOOK AT ME" - GERI HALLIWELL (EMI)
9."WILD WILD WEST" - WILL SMITH (SONY)
10."NO SCRUBS" - TLC (BMG)
11."IF YOU HAD MY LOVE" - JENNIFER LOPEZ (SONY)
12."D.I.Y." - KMFDM (UNI)
13."NOOKIE" - LIMP BIZKIT (UNI)
14."GO" - SOUNDTRACK (SONY)
15."CASSIUS 1999 CD" - CASSIUS (EMI)
16."SCAR TISSUE" - RED HOT CHILLI PEPPERS (WEA)
17."BEAUCOUP FISH (CD)" - UNDERWORLD (BMG)
18."FREAK ON A LEASH" - KORN (SONY)
19."EX-FACTOR" - LAURYN HILL (SONY)
20."HAVE A NICE DAY (CD various cuts)" - ROXETTE (EMI)

Email: djmikee@home.com
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SATURDAY, SEPT 18, 8:00PM

A Story to Live

By Ann Wells
(Los Angeles Times)

My brother-in-law opened the bottom drawer of my sister's bureau and lifted out a tissue-wrapped package. "This," he said, "is not a slip. This is lingerie." He discarded the tissue and handed me the slip. It was exquisite; silk, handmade and trimmed with a cobweb of lace. The price tag with an astronomical figure on it was still attached. "Jan bought this the first time we went to New York, at least 8 or 9 years ago. She never wore it. She was saving it for a special occasion. Well, I guess this is the occasion." He took the slip from me and put it on the bed with the other clothes we were taking to the mortician. His hands lingered on the soft material for a moment, then he slammed the drawer shut and turned to me. "Don't ever save anything for a special occasion. Every day you're alive is a special occasion."

I remembered those words through the funeral and the days that followed when I helped him and my niece attend to all the sad chores that follow an unexpected death. I thought about them on the plane returning to California from the Midwestern town where my sister's family lives. I thought about all the things that she hadn't seen or heard or done.

I thought about the things that she had done without realizing that they were special. I'm still thinking about his words, and they've changed my life. I'm reading more and dusting less. I'm sitting on the deck and admiring the view without fussing about the weeds in the garden. I'm spending more time with my family and friends and less time in committee meetings.

Whenever possible, life should be a pattern of experience to savor, not endure. I'm trying to recognize these moments now and cherish them. I'm not "saving" anything; we use our good china and crystal for every special event-such as losing a pound, getting the sink unstopped or the first camellia blossom. I wear my good blazer to the market if I like it.

My theory is if I look prosperous, I can shell out $28.49 for one small bag of groceries without wincing. I'm not saving my good perfume for special parties; clerks in hardware stores and tellers in banks have noses that function as well as my party-going friends. "Someday" and "one of these days" are losing their grip on my vocabulary. If it's worth seeing or hearing or doing, I want to see and hear and do it now. I'm not sure what my sister would've done had she known that she wouldn't be here for the tomorrow we all take for granted. I think she would have called family members and a few close friends. She might have called a few former friends to apologize and mend fences for past squabbles.

I like to think she would have gone out for a Chinese dinner, her favorite food. I'm guessing - I'll never know. It's those little things left undone that would make me angry if I knew that my hours were limited. Angry because I put off seeing good friends whom I was going to get in touch with - someday. Angry because I hadn't written certain letters that I intended to write - one of these days. Angry and sorry that I didn't tell my husband and daughter often enough how much I truly love them. I'm trying very hard not to put off, hold back, or save anything that would add laughter and luster to our lives. And every morning when I open my eyes, I tell myself that it is special. Every day, every minute, every breath truly is... a gift from God.

If you've received this, it is because someone cares for you. If you're too busy to take the few minutes that it would take right now to forward this to ten people, would it be the first time you didn't do that little thing that would make a difference in your relationships? I can tell you it certainly won't be the last. Take a few minutes to send this to a few people you care about, just to let them know that you're thinking of them. May love litter your life with blessings!

"You've got to dance like nobody's watching, and love like it's never going to hurt." "People say true friends must always hold hands, but true friends don't need to hold hands because they know the other hand will always be there."

For Rev. Gregg D. Bamford
who passed away August 18, 1999

Comfort Foods

Remember Grandma's kitchen? Warm, spicy and comfy. To those who grew up before Oprah and Sally had made it into our t.v. homes, these kitchens surrounded us with comfort and safety. Remember the feeling, we never needed to ask who or what we were. We were Grandma's grandchildren, to comfort and pamper with steaming bowls of chicken soup. Masterpieces with real pieces of chicken and noodles that didn't disintegrate at the touch of your spoon accompanied by huge slabs of homemade bread dripping in butter (before they invented cholesterol). Pots of dark, rich and sweet hot chocolate (also invented before they had realized that chocolate was a good substitute for sex). We were very important people then! All our needs were met by a miniature, white-haired woman who had baked and cooked all day just to make our favorite food - comfort food. Worries and cares disappeared with each steaming spoonful. It warmed our hearts all the way to our toes. Comfort food - very different from the tasteless bits of unrealistic food we find in today's "better eateries". You know what I mean - those huge plates covered in sprinkles of parsley and artfully swirled spills of colorful sauces (reminiscent of the everlasting Yin Yang symbol), all surrounding a piece of veal an inch in diameter. This is topped with a minuscule drop of maple baked turnip balanced on each side by a mix of two (count them) baby potatoes and two infant sized carrots (top for color). The final touch of glory is gently placed (as the sauces congeal on the plate) across this presentation, topping this work of art with an inedible sprig of rosemary or, at worst, a totally unrecognizable sprig of brittle herb (smells like pine, or is it spruce?). This had just whetted your appetite enough to stop at McDonald's to fill the huge gaping hole left by a $30.00 meal served by a waiter who has left you feeling like you wore white after labor day. You depart, feeling less comforted than if you had your credit card cut in two by a 16 year old salesperson at the local latte shop. (Like, you're over your like, limit, man.)

To help you through these trying days, I offer one of Grandma's most comforting meals. This is guaranteed to make you forget your bad hair day or that you had walked the entire length of Whyte Avenue with your skirt tucked into your garter belt. Grandma cures all. This is a recipe passed from my Grandma to me and now I turn the secret of true comfort food over to you.

Fox Valley Chicken

3 to 4 lbs. of chicken pieces (fryer chicken is best)
2 large or 3 med. Onions - sliced (Spanish is best)
1/2 lb. fresh white mushrooms - sliced
1 3/4 tbsp. Chopped fresh dill or 2-3 tsp. Dried dill
3 cups (cholesterol be damned) heavy cream (farm fresh is best)
(note: if cream is unavailable or too expensive, 2-3 cans of mushroom soup mixed with 3/4 cup of milk will do.)
Salt and pepper to taste
Flour to coat chicken
Oil and butter to fry (2 tbsp. of each)

Directions:
1. Heat heavy frying pan with oil and butter.
2. Coat chicken with flour seasoned with salt and pepper.
3. Fry chicken until golden on all sides. Only a few pieces at a time or they will not brown properly. Do not cook thoroughly! Drain on a paper towel.
4. Fry onions with some pepper until golden and well cooked. Transfer 1/2 the onions to a well-greased casserole dish. Add all of the chicken and top with remainder of the onions.
5. In the same frying pan, fry mushrooms (you may need to add some butter) until well browned
6. Add cream or soup, salt pepper and dill. Allow to bubble for about 10 - 15 minutes at medium heat, stirring often. Be careful not to allow it to curdle. Taste for seasoning. Add more if necessary (easy on the salt).
7. Pour mixture over top of chicken and onions, cover. Pop into oven at 300 - 325 degrees for about 1 - 1 1/2 hours. Watch very carefully - if mixture begins to curdle, reduce heat.
8. When chicken is very tender, dish is complete.

Serve with very wide (real egg) noodle or mashed potatoes (mixed with a dollop of sour cream and lots of butter), green beans, a fresh lettuce and tomato salad and a loaf of warm French bread to wipe up the cream sauce. I guarantee you won't need McDonald's after this luscious feast. Certainly, this takes a lot of time and a great big splash of love; but that's COMFORT FOOD. Enjoy!!

P.S. - This dish has been known to invite a proposal or two... what kind of proposal need not be mentioned, so choose who you serve this to with care.

Yours,
D.R.

Friends 4 Phair Fund Raiser

Oct 24, 1999 - 11am - 2pm
St. Andrew's Centre - 12720 - 111 Ave.
Tickets $20 or $35 a couple
On Sale Sep 15 - Oct 20 at:
Orlando Books, 10123 Whyte Ave.
Front Page, 10356 Jasper Ave.

How to End Your Relation ship…

This is a simple but little known fact. Just go grocery shopping with your partner. By the time you get home, thoughts of life insurance policies, forcing sale of your home and the cute bag boy in aisle five are dancing through your head. It starts with "The List". For some reason, you can't just walk through and buy what you think looks good. It must be orchestrated with the precision of breaking into the Pentagon. It is divided into sections and Heaven help us if "Dishwashing Liquid" falls under the "Dairy" column. In our grocery store,
dairy is at the end of the line before checkout, so this would entail hot tailing it over to aisle three before my boyfriend turns white and falls over dead from stress.

I am a cart pusher. I simply push the cart and glare at mothers who let their children throw products in our cart. I say "Yes, dear" and " Whatever, dear" for the first couple aisles, but by aisle four I am saying " Who the #@&$ cares? Toss the damn thing in the cart". I answer questions like " Honey? I am not sure what to do! I REALLY like Peter Pan Peanut Butter, but Skippy is 7 cents off! What do you think?". This from the man that will easily apply for a second mortgage for football tickets…

The cleaning product aisle is completely off limits for me. As my husband is an accountant, he is perfectly capable of standing there for an hour, contemplating and trying to figure out how many sheets are in a roll of
paper toweling in each brand then dividing that by the price. When he starts dividing the number of washes contained in a box of detergent I start to twitch. By the time he hits the toilet paper and is juggling packages to see which is softest, I flee. I head to the kitchen accessory department and start to think that maybe my life is not complete without a refrigerator magnet in the shape of a goose or corncob holders in the shape of a lizard. Then I go watch the cute bag boy in aisle five stock cans. I especially like that part. After that, lean at the check out and read the magazines. The moment of truth has come. I see this huge mass of products coming at me and can only assume my husband has decided to feed all the Balkan countries, half of India and part of Africa. The dreaded moment has come. The worst word in the English language. COUPON. He whips out about four thousand scraps of paper and the check out clerk looks in terror. I mean, she is making minimum wage and is not prepared for this at all. He proceeds to hand her a coupon for 5 cents off of a bag of flour that he cut out in 1979. Another coupon emerges that if he buys 37 boxes of Jell-O, he gets one free. One more that if he buys 20 pounds of chicken, he gets a FREE tub of sour cream! At this point my sunglasses go on and I go to buy some Lottery tickets. After ten exhausted people have bagged up everything, we head to the car. Of course he is checking the receipt while navigating a cart with a broken wheel and four hundred pounds of stuff in it. We have had our share of dings and he says "Aahhh…It is an old Toyota anyway. Who cares? LOOK HONEY! I saved four cents on a stick of butter!" As we proceed to load up he "supervises" as the thought of breaking an egg would require the services of 911. I carry the eggs on my lap and guard them like a chicken. Upon arriving home, I have had it. While I find being anal retentive at times a quality I enjoy in a gay man, this is pushing it. I beg excuses and let him sort his stash.
So, if you ever want to break up with your loved one, don't bother with the normal way. No point in leaping around on them, tossing out their clothes or outing them at work. They will end up coming back anyway.
Just steal their coupons. You won't ever see them again…

Randy Sindelar Corturillo

19 Years. 50 Countries. 1 Dream.

19 Years ago Terry Fox set out to fulfill a dream. A dream that was born out of the loss of his leg to bone cancer. In 1980, he was determined to bring the suffering of all cancer patients to national attention. To this end, he embarked on a marathon of hope to run across Canada to raise money for cancer research.

Terry ran an average of 26 miles (42 kilometers) every day for 143 days until he was forced to stop by a return of his cancer. At that point he had completed 5565 kilometers. His promise to return to complete his journey was not to be. Terry died in 1981.

THE TERRY FOX RUN

The Terry Fox Run attracts over 1 million participants of all ages, at an estimated 5000 Run Sites in 50 countries. You can run, walk, bike, roller-blade or go the distance in a wheelchair. Over $220 million has been raised in Terry's memory. Funds raised have an enormous impact on cancer research and contribute to the hope and the faith that one day Terry's dream will become a reality - a world free of cancer.

Sunday, Sept. 19, 1999

1-888-836-9786 www.terryfoxrun.org

Yours, Mine, Ours, And Us An LBGT Parents Group

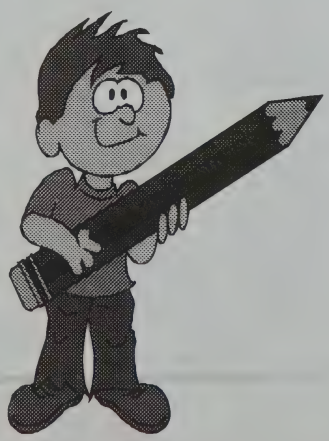
This group for lgbt parents and partners met for the first time during Pride Week. The event was sponsored by Massiah Counselling Services as a Pride event, in the hopes of getting this "often identified as a community need and wished for group" going.

The twelve parents who attended were so very pleased; the energy was infectious - for some it was the first time they had met other lbgt folks who are parents - or "wicked" stepparents, as one described herself. By the end of the evening, phone numbers were being exchanged, and thoughts for events included being able to bring kids to share with other kids with lgbt parents, time alone for the adults, and fun events like picnics etc.

Imagine, a space for lgbt folks to talk about being parents and doing it with others who live the experience of parenting from a lgbt perspective - and know how " ordinary and normal and challenging" that can be.

Towards the end of the evening, when the group was asked about a next meeting, the answer was quick — YES- in two weeks!

Now, a month later, some decisions have been made:



- Meet every second Tuesday night, starting August 3/99
- Meet upstairs at Orlando books on Whyte Ave. from 7 - 9pm
- Pass the hat to collect the $26.70 it costs to rent the

space
- The meetings will alternate in structure - one meeting will be peer support - general discussion, group members will rotate facilitating
- Every second meeting will be structured around a topic, and the topics for the next several months have been set. We may or may not bring in an "expert" depending on the topic and we may decide to have some day long workshops
- Liz is not able to attend every meeting but will be there for the more structured ones, that constitute a "course" on parenting. This course is not connected to any other lgbt courses on parenting (at least not at this writing) elsewhere.
- Each meeting will start with "success stories" as each group participant has 3 minutes to report on a parenting success since the last meeting. Then on to the topic for the structured meetings, or more general discussion for the non-course ones, allowing for lots of variations on this of course.
- One couple volunteered to write up something for the Womonspace newsletter and for Times.10.
- Liz offered to include the information in her regular mailings and the use of her mailing list that includes a wide range of lesbigayt and het. resources.

Topics for the next several months:
- Coming Out
- What is parenting? How did I learn my ideas of parenting?
- Discipline- what is it, what is its purpose?
- Nutrition
- Legal Issues
- Communication
- Dealing with oppression, discrimination

Other topics suggested: dealing with in/outlaws, secrets, routines, allowance, handling money, maintaining couple intimacy, blended families... Clearly all these will run together at times and we will consider some for separate discussion.

And we like the name: "YOURS MINE OURS and US - a parenting group for lgbt parents, step parents and partners". It provides a framework for the discussions to help us be organized.

The energy is strong and positive. Babysitting sharing is already starting to happen, and social events will grow as the group evolves.

Tell your friends and join us. Call Massiah Counselling Services 415 5434 for more information. Or just drop in upstairs at Orlando Books, every second Tuesday at 7 pm

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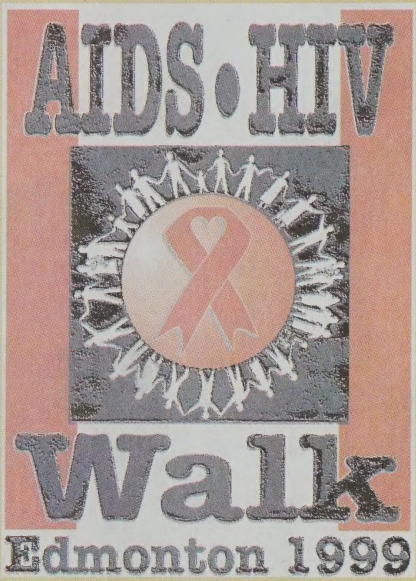
SEPTEMBER 26
KINSMEN PARK



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